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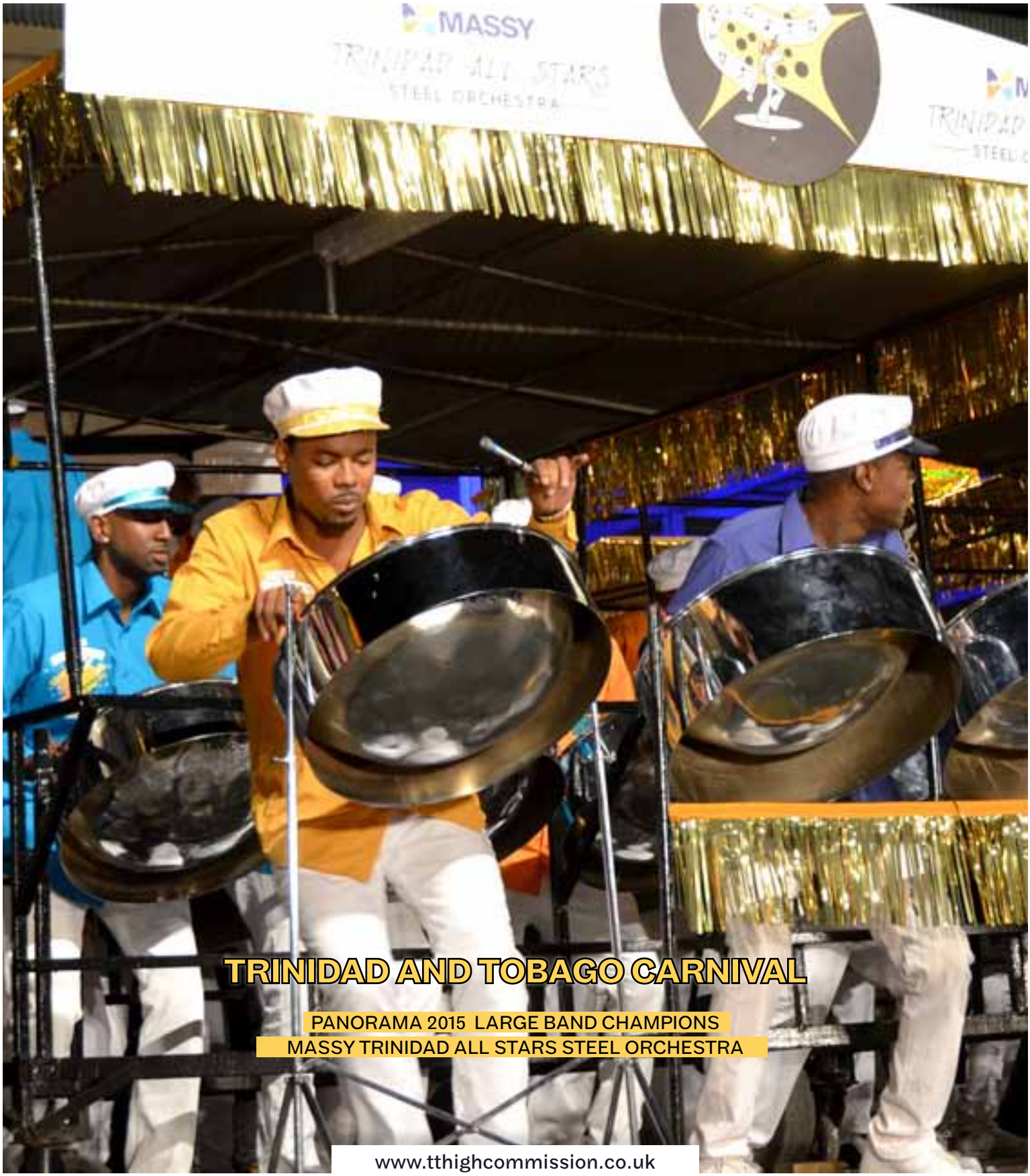

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO CARNIVAL

PANORAMA 2015 LARGE BAND CHAMPIONS
MASSY TRINIDAD ALL STARS STEEL ORCHESTRA

www.tthighcommission.co.uk

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COVER PHOTOS: (FRONT) Members of the Massy Trinidad All Stars frontline during their performance of *"Unquestionable"* in the National Panorama final at Queen's Park Savannah, Port-of-Spain. **Photo - Trinidad All Stars Steel Orchestra. (BACK)** T&T Horticultural Society's 2015 prize-winning display at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. **Photos: Andre Alexander**

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CONTENTS

LONDON ***MISSION*** | *JAN - JUN 2015*
ISSUE 70

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

1/ Presidential Children's Initiative - School Tours

3/ Message from His Excellency Anthony Carmona S.C. on the Occasion of Indian Arrival Day 2015

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

4/ Caribbean Leaders agree to foster a "Cleaner and More Sustainable Energy Future in the Caribbean

5/ Message from The Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar, SC, MP on the Occasion of Spiritual Shouter Baptist Liberation Day 2015

NEWS FROM THE MISSION

13/ T&T rich heritage of flora on display at the Royal Horticultural Society Chelsea Flower Show

11/ Minister TewaireTrinidad and Tobago's Candidate for the post of the Commonwealth Secretary-General

EYE ON TRADE

15/ International Fashion Showcase 2015 The Next in Line - Adrian Foster

17/ The University of Trinidad & Tobago creates history with its High Performance Cricket Team

19/ The 2015 Latin Finance Caribbean Investment & Finance Forum (CIFF)

CONSULAR & STUDENT SERVICES

22/ Commonwealth Eye Health Consortium (CEHC) scholar: Dr Desirée Murray

23/ Trinidad & Tobago's Nolana Lynch wins the Caribbean & Americas Commonwealth Youth Awards

27/ Teocah Dove recieves Queen's Young Leaders award from Queen Elizabeth II

CULTURE & TOURISM

30/ Canadian Delegation optimistic toward tourism opportunities in T&T

31/ Turtle nesting season 2015 launches in Valencia

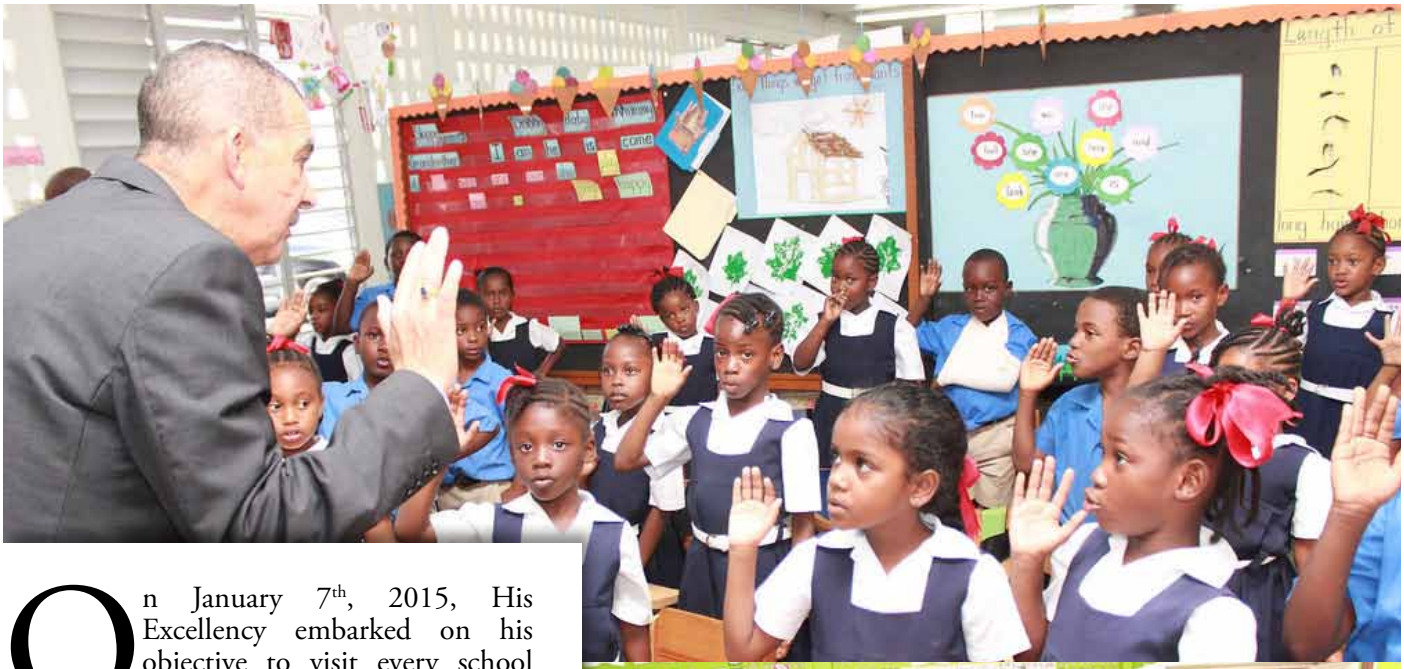
34-36/ Trinidad and Tobago Carnival Results 2015

FEATURES

44/ To Tekka for Ingredients

48/ The Red House Archaeological Excavations

PRESIDENTIAL CHILDREN'S INITIATIVE – SCHOOL TOURS



On January 7th, 2015, His Excellency embarked on his objective to visit every school directing his attention on the Primary schools first.

A visit to every school in the country is a planned initiative of His Excellency Anthony Thomas Aquinas Carmon ORTT, SC since assuming office. Its intention is to interact with every child of school age from infants to Upper Level to express upon them their value to the country and to engender in them the importance of "doing the right thing because it is the right thing to do". To this end His Excellency visits each classroom and invite the children to recite the following pledge:

I Promise My Country, The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago,
My Parents, My Teachers And Myself
To Always Do The Right Thing Because
It Is The Right Thing To Do

After which, each child and staff member of the school is given a royal blue wristband with gold writing. His Excellency explains the symbolic use of the two (2) is because they are the Presidential Colours. The wrist band carries the Presidential Wreath and the last line of the pledge, and prosperous New Year.

Edited from https://otp.tt/presidential-childrens-initiative-school-tours/

Pictured: His Excellency Anthony Carmona S.C., President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago with pupils and their teachers of various Primary School during his visit to primary schools. **Photos courtesy Office of the President**

NEWS / THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

PRESIDENT ANTHONY CARMONA RECIEVES COURTESY CALL FROM T&T 1973 "FOOTBALL LEGENDS

On April 15h, 2015, His Excellency Anthony Thomas Aquinas Carmona, ORTT, SC, President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago received some members the Trinidad and Tobago football team who played the memorable World Cup Football qualifying match against Haiti in 1973.

That team which is now call the Football Legends was instrumental in Trinidad and Tobago's bid to qualify for the 1974 World Cup. Present at the visit was Mr. Arthur Sanderson, a former player who was instrumental in getting these football legends together, especially for the visit to the Office of the President. Included in the visit was Oliver Champs, Team Manager, Selwyn Murren, Captain and players Everald "Gally" Cummings, Lawrence Rondon, Raymond Moraldo, Devenish Paul, Selris Figaro, Wilfred Cave, Leon Carpette, Leroy De Leon, Raymond Roberts, Edgar Vidale, Paul Regis, Hugh Bancharan and Frank Joseph.

His Excellency initiated the visit by expressing how much the football legends filled him with pride not on a nationalistic level but also because most of the members of the team were from south Trinidad and the team captain was his cousin. During discussion members of the team expressed the view that they felt forgotten and discarded, when in fact given their knowledge and experience they are well equipped to make meaningful contributions to the national football fraternity.

His Excellency recalled the great skill demonstrated by the now deceased Russell Texeira during that World Cup campaign and the disappointment felt throughout the Nation over the 2 – 1 lost to Haiti in that 1973 match. However, not letting the controversy surrounding that match impact on the team spirit, the Legends went on to trounced what was considered the "best Mexican team" of that time, 4 – 0, the greatest defeat that Mexico suffered by Trinidad and Tobago.

The Football Legends presented his Excellency with a team portrait taken during the 1974 World Cup Football Campaign.

https://otp.tt/trinidad-and-tobago-football-legends-1973-national-football-team/

Above: His Excellency Anthony Carmona S.C., President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago with Trinidad and Tobago "Football Legends" 1973 National Football Team.

Below: His Excellency presented with a team portrait taken during the 1974 World Cup Football Campaign

Photos courtesy Office of the President

WATCH THE VIDEO

You can view the video footage of the T&T Football Legends courtesy call on President Camona online.

https://youtu.be/a2WsVyx_Kl4

MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY ANTHONY CARMONA S.C. ON THE OCCASION OF INDIAN ARRIVAL DAY 2015

His Excellency Anthony Carmona S.C.,
President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Indian Arrival Day 2015, represents a defining milestone as we celebrate the 170th anniversary of the arrival of the Fatel Razack, holding in its bowels the first group of East Indians to our shores, and in its wake, inestimable personal loss, suffering and displacement. The journey across the 'Kala Pani' to the West Indies was one fraught with danger and uncertainty but during that perilous journey, hope lived eternal. With determined anticipation, those on the Fatel Razack, were resolute in creating a better life for themselves and generations to come. As much as today is one of remembrance, it is equally a day of thanksgiving that signifies unequivocally, the ascendancy and perseverance of the human spirit.

In this rapidly evolving world of globalization, indigenous culture has felt the brunt of erosive Western influence. The East Indian way of life, has not only survived but has soared over its 170 years of existence, entering mainstream culture without losing its quintessence. The mores of East Indian influence continue to maintain their vibrancy and rightful place in the heart of our Republic. The eclectic music, spicy foods, colourful dress, ideals and values, endemic to East Indian culture, continue to buttress and support the international uniqueness of Trinidad and Tobago culture, easily recognizable throughout the world.

East Indian culture is characterized and driven by a deep sense of spirituality. The teachings of Indian holy texts have instilled and embedded in our citizens, positive social values such as humility, respect for elders, sacrifice, hard work and vision. These are essential tools for any nation on its path to meaningful progress. Through generational sacrifice and hard work, our East Indian brothers and sisters, have demonstrated that anything is possible and that ambitions can be realized from the humblest of backgrounds. One generational quality that has built this society of ours is the philosophy of thrift and sacrifice and the need to save for that proverbial 'rainy day'. The prominence given to our nation as a rainbow country has its genesis and credence in our 'Calaloo culture' of which our East Indian brothers and sisters have played a principal part.

Today, each of us in Trinidad and Tobago, of every race, is a beneficiary of the sacrifice, work ethic and value system of the Indian indentured labourers who toiled this very land which we call ours. George Lamming, that great Barbadian author of the seminal book "In the Castle of My Skin" stated in an interview, "There can be no creative discovery of this civilisation without the central and informing influence of the Indian presence. There can be no history of Trinidad and Guyana that is not also a history of the humanisation of those landscapes by Indian labour."

We are ever so blessed, to be a part of an ethnically diverse culture allowing us to be a nation of tolerance which is a blueprint to all nations of what harmonious diversity is all about. Let us all join the East Indian community in celebrating this momentous occasion. My wife, my children Christian and Anura and I wish this nation of ours a Happy Indian Arrival Day and may God bless this Republic.

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CARIBBEAN LEADERS AGREE TO FOSTER A "CLEANER AND MORE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FUTURE IN THE CARIBBEAN"

27th January 2015

The Governments of Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Canada, Colombia, Curacao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, New Zealand, Spain, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom, and the United States todaystated their commitment to support the Caribbean's transformation of the energy systems of Caribbean states.

Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Kamla Persad-Bissessar, SC, participated in the First Caribbean Energy Security Summit, hosted by US Vice President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. in Washington, D.C.

In a Joint Statement issued following the Summit, the leaders, together with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat, Caribbean Development Bank, European Union, Inter-American Development Bank Group, International Renewable Energy Agency, Organization of American States, and the World Bank Group agreed to pursue the following, in accordance with national laws:

1. Comprehensive, planning-based and research-driven approaches to energy transition, including implementation of pilot and demonstration projects, based on successful models so that individual clean energy projects are part of a fully integrated, climate-resilient energy transition plan toward clean sustainable energy for all.

2. For Caribbean countries, necessary and specific reforms , including recommendations from the 2013 CARICOM Energy Policy and the outcome of the 2015 Dominican Energy Pact, to support policy and regulatory environments that facilitate the introduction of new technologies favoring sustainable and clean energy that provide legal certainty for investors and improved predictability in price and supply for users.

3. Where viable, alignment of national legal and regulatory approaches to facilitate greater clean energy investment throughout the region, provided that countries can access finance and other resources on affordable terms, to set the stage for future electrical interconnection in keeping with the goals of Connect 2022.

4. Where technically and commercially feasible, promote and develop affordable: (i) no- or lower carbon electricity generation through wind, solar, geothermal power, hydropower, bioenergy, ocean energy, energy recovery from waste, and other clean energies; and (ii) energy efficiency measures. Recognizing also, that alternative fuels, such as natural gas, can play a useful bridging role.

5. Open, transparent, competitive and criteria-based processes, including liberalization where cost effective, to procure energy investment and facilitate access to finance for cleaner and climate resilient energy projects and infrastructure.

6. Data and energy information exchange and coordination with, between, and among countries and stakeholders to minimize duplication and enable the monitoring and evaluation of energy projects to maximize the impacts of efforts toward fully integrated, low carbon and climate-resilient energy transition plans.

Pictured: Prime Minister, Kamla Persad-Bissessar SC, stands with other Caribbean leaders, alongside Vice President of the United States, Joe Biden (second row far left), during the Caribbean Energy Security Summit, at the State Department in Washington DC, on January 26, 2015. **Photo courtesy Office of the Prime Minister**

The Summit is a follow-up to the launch of the Caribbean Energy Security Initiative (CESI) in June 2014. The Summit highlighted ongoing efforts under the CESI, including support for improved governance, enhanced access to finance, and increased donor coordination.

Caribbean leaders highlighted goals for their energy sectors and discussed how the United States and other partners can better support the Caribbean in pursuit of alternative sources of energy.

They agreed to pursue comprehensive energy diversification programs, including actions to facilitate the introduction of cleaner forms of energy.

During the discussions, Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar proposed a Caribbean Energy Thematic Fund for CARICOM Member States, to address regional energy security.

http://www.opm.gov.tt/media_centre.php?mid=14&eid=641

MESSAGE FROM THE HONOURABLE KAMLA PERSAD-BISSESSAR, SC, MP ON THE OCCASION OF SPIRITUAL SHOUTER BAPTIST LIBERATION DAY 2015

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, and my family, I extend greetings to the entire Spiritual Shouter Baptist Community as they commemorate and celebrate Spiritual Shouter Baptist Liberation Day 2015.

Today is a day for celebration as Shouter Baptists have come a long way.

Nineteen (19) years ago in 1996, the government of the day, under the leadership of Prime Minister Basdeo Panday, honoured and recognized the Baptist faith and its members by granting them their very own public holiday.

March 30 was chosen because it was on that day in 1951, the infamous Shouters Prohibition Ordinance of 1917 was repealed thus allowing the Spiritual Shouter Baptists to worship and practice their faith openly without any continued discrimination and repression.

Like all others, this faith community enjoys protection under Trinidad and Tobago's 1976 Republican Constitution, which guarantees all citizens, "freedom of conscience and religious belief and observance".

Pictured: *The Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago hosted a reception in celebration of Spiritual Shouter Baptist Liberation Day on Thursday March 26, 2015, at the Diplomatic Centre, St Ann's, Trinidad.* ***Photos****:* ***www.facebook.com/KamlaPersadBissessar***

Although the origins of the Spiritual Shouter Baptist Faith in Trinidad and Tobago can be traced to foreign countries, it has evolved over time to become a unique, indigenous religion. It has managed to fuse the spontaneity and rhythms of Africa with the restrained, traditional tenets of Christianity to produce a religion that is vibrant, expressive and dynamic.

Today, the Spiritual Shouter Baptist Community constitute a most colourful and vibrant part of our country's religious mosaic. Indeed, many of ours sons and daughters of this faith are highly respected, not only among their own, but in the wider society.

Many of them are professionals who hold substantive positions in both the public and private sectors.

The Spiritual Shouter Baptist Community also plays a critical role in the education of our nation's children by proudly managing their very own St. Barbara's Spiritual Shouter Baptist Primary School in Maloney. The government began construction of the school in 2011 and it was completed and officially opened in 2012.

Indeed it was a long road for the Spiritual Shout Baptist community but they persevered and, with the commitment of my government, this dream and prayer of having their own school became a reality.

My government continues to give support to, and partners with the Baptist community – and all other faiths – in building a better society and proudly highlighting this nation as a beacon for all other countries where "every creed and race" does indeed "find an equal place".

Trinidad and Tobago can easily be described as the mecca for the Shouter Baptist movement in the Caribbean.

I thank the Spiritual Shouter Baptist Community for their tireless efforts in the process of nation building and economic development, and I offer my prayers to them as they celebrate this very important occasion of Spiritual Shouter Baptist Liberation Day.

http://unctt.org/prime-minister-persad-bissessar-extends-greetings-to-the-spiritual-shouter-baptist-community-3/

children's Life Fund

www.clfa.org.tt

The Fund was Created and established in November 2010 by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, the Children's Life Fund's aegis is to provide urgent relief for children, assisting those who live in the shadow of disease and illness. The Fund has also received support from the renewed charity medical Schriners Children's Hospital. In addition, all Cabinet Ministers and Members of Parliament contribute 5% of their salary to the Fund.

Account Number: *50927848*
Sort Code: *204734*

Trinidad and Tobago High Commission (Children's Life Fund)

Barclays Bank, West Halkin Street, London SW1X 8JE

MESSAGE FROM THE HON. PRIME MINISTER ON THE OCCASION OF INDIAN ARRIVAL DAY 2015

Fellow Citizens

Today marks a national occasion that reminds us of the indomitable strength of the human spirit, especially in times of challenges and adversity.

The commemoration of 170 years since the first arrival of East Indians in Trinidad & Tobago is a special one for all citizens.

For people of East Indian heritage, it is a moment when we reflect on the long path through history where people summoned the fortitude to let go of their land of origin, to embrace a new mother country.

For people of other origins, it is an opportunity to understand the things that built the foundations of a people arriving in a new land, facing a future of uncertainty.

And for all of us, as people of Trinidad & Tobago, it is a day we recognise one of the pillars of the model nation we have become.

The harmony that the world admires was certainly hard-won, and over time has become one of our most jealously guarded qualities as a people.

For descendants of East Indians, as with people of other origins, the walk through history was one with many challenges.

Victory came not by summoning the things that defined our ethnicity, but rather the things that defined our humanity.

The Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar
Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

As new generations came, there were moments when the joy of progress was tempered by the sadness of still recent departure.

Though the emotional connection to India remained strong, Trinidad & Tobago was the new home to which we pledged our hearts and passions.

And one of the very important components of progress came by understanding that education was the best opportunity to make the future a better place.

Education is in fact one of the cornerstones upon which the unity of our people and nation is built.

It is when the children of labourers attended schools, overcoming language and cultural barriers, meeting other children of different origins for the first time, that commitment to a common destiny truly emerged.

Today, elders look on with great pride as their descendants, children of a new land, excel in many disciplines such as the arts, medicine, law, engineering, education, business and entrepreneurship, politics, sport, and many other areas of human endeavour.

These are the things we must reflect on, because these are the things upon which our unity is built.

Of even greater purpose, however, is the need to ensure that we never allow that unity to falter, or divisions to emerge.

Of all the growing pains we have experienced in building a modern Trinidad & Tobago together, one in particular has endured – that of advancing our political system to one where parties, representatives and Governments can be formed purely on the principle of one nation, one people.

As Prime Minister, I have considered it an honour and privilege to have the influence over our political system, strongly guided by that very principle.

As an advocate for an end to discrimination, I have tried to use my time to ensure that at every step of the way we are increasingly defined by the things that unite us.

And it remains my mission to continue my work to deliver a political system where merit and ideas are fully, driving forces of our politics.

As citizens, you are important to that mission, because you are the ones who must resist attempts to divide us, and make clear that there is no space left for division.

If we are to achieve such a political system, it requires us to stand together, work together, excel together and celebrate together.

Throughout history, we have proudly stood as one people in religious and cultural celebrations, in sports, in education and in our communities.

We must therefore set ourselves the target of completing this unity foundation, by letting go of the politics that divide us, and embracing the politics of harmony.

Let us not say 'one day we will get there…'

Let us say instead 'we will make the change now'.

Yes, we must never forget the sacrifices our ancestors made to hold on to their religions, culture and traditions.

We do have a responsibility to protect the customs and the traditions that defined our progress.

But we owe a larger responsibility to the things that will form the future of Trinidad & Tobago.

As a people we have faced many challenges together, and we will no doubt face many more.

Let us, however, never allow ourselves to forget that when the worst challenges came, we triumphed not by focusing on the things that made us different, but by standing together as one people, and one nation.

We are all familiar with the profound words of Mahatma Gandhi: "You must be the change you wish to see in the world."

What this demands of us is to take charge of the future we want, not by assigning hope to coming generations, but by taking up the task of ensuring that positive change is our legacy.

As a nation, even with great accomplishments already, I am convinced that the best is still ahead of us.

We have the experience of history and we have the conviction of the present.

The future therefore will come by our commitment to ensuring that we finally put an end to the things that divide us, and fully embrace the things that unites us.

On Indian Arrival Day 2015, this is my greeting and my wish for Trinidad and Tobago, that we build a legacy of harmony and peace.

Pictured: Prime Minister Kamla Persad Bissessar attending Indian Arrival Day 2015 Celebration events on Sat. 30th May, at **(Far left)** the Parvati GIrls High School, Debe; **(at left)** The NCIC Indian Arrival Day celebration at Divali Nagar, Chaguanas. **Photos: Facebook/ Kamla PersadBissessar** and **Office of the Prime Minister**

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER KAMLA PERSAD-BISSESSAR ON THE RESULTS OF THE UK GENERAL ELECTION

On behalf of the Government and People of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, and on my own behalf, I congratulate Mr. David Cameron for leading his party to a convincing victory in the 2015 General Election," Mrs. Persad-Bissessar stated.

"Above all, this victory reaffirms that people across the world are willing to place their trust in a leader whose vision for a strong and united nation is coupled with a commitment to service. It is a truly remarkable display of democracy," she added.

The Prime Minister also acknowledged the long-standing bond between the two nations. She noted, "Trinidad and Tobago and the United Kingdom share a deep and close relationship through our historic roots as a former British colony and today as proud and equal members of the Commonwealth."

Prime Minister Persad-Bissessar declared that she is looking forward to continued work and progress with the UK government under Mr. Cameron's leadership as they forge ahead, confronting mutual challenges as well as those of global importance, including the peace and security of our global community.

NEWS

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO WINS 2014 IBNS BANK NOTE OF YEAR AWARD

Pictured: Trinidad and Tobago's polymer 50 Dollar bank note.

Photos: Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago

The International Bank Note Society (IBNS) announces that its voting membership has for the first time ever selected the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago to receive it prestigious "Bank Note of the Year Award" for 2014. With over 130 new banknotes released worldwide in 2014, nearly 3 dozen were of sufficiently new design to be eligible for nomination. The 50 Dollar polymer Trinidad and Tobago note was followed in voting by the 5000 Franc note from the French Pacific Territories (Tahiti) and the 10 Dinar bill from Kuwait.

Now in its 54th year, the IBNS has over 2000 members worldwide. As a nonprofit educational organization its objectives are to promote, stimulate and advance the study, collection and dissemination of information related to paper money. From all significantly newly designed and widely circulated banknotes released in 2014, the IBNS membership nominated notes from 12 different countries to place on the ballot. Nominees represented three continents (Europe, Asia & Africa), the Middle East, and 4 island nations (2 in the Americas). Past "Bank Note of the Year" winners include Kazakhstan (2013, 2012, 2011), Uganda (2010), Bermuda (2009), Samoa (2008), Scotland (2007), Comoros (2006), Faeroe Islands (2005) and Canada (2004).

The 2014 winning banknote was produced collaboratively by the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago and De La Rue Currency of England. It is the first Central Bank in the Caribbean to issue polymer currency. While the 50 Dollar award-winning bill fittingly commemorates the Central Bank's Golden Anniversary, "it is meant to be used for all your purchases, like you would any other money." The note is virtually identical in size to United States bills with a face value of almost 8 U.S. Dollars, 7 Euros or 5 British Pounds at early May 2015 exchange rates.

The stunning design, predominantly gold in color, interprets an artist's rendering of a red hibiscus flower and truly striking image of a red capped cardinal bird in flight against the clear transparent polymer plastic window. The back of the note features a young female masquerader in an award-winning Carnival costume along with the Central Bank building. Modern polymer banknotes have enjoyed increasing popularity since their introduction in 1988. They offer durability as well as enhanced security features and have become a favorite of many collectors.

http://www.theibns.org/joomla/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=138&Itemid=45

T&T CALYPSO NETBALLERS END ON LOSING NOTE AT THE NETBALL EUROPE RANKING COMPETITION AND OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP AT THE ANTRIM FORUM, BELFAST.

National coach Wesley "Pepe" Gomes says he is satisfied with the allround improvements shown by the Calypso netballers despite a combined record of seven losses and one win in the eight-match campaign during the just concluded tour of Europe. The team which included the likes of Joelisa Cooper and Candice Guerrero, suffered a 3-0 loss to England in their Test series, 69-36, 67-42 and 65-42 and this was followed by a 1-4 outing at the Netball Europe Ranking Competition and Open Championship which ended at the Antrim Forum, Belfast, Northern Ireland on Sunday 17th May 2015.

In Belfast, the world ninth ranked T&T was again beaten by world third ranked England (63-42); Wales (53-46) and Scotland (45-42) before breaking that losing skid with a 52-40 win over host Northern Ireland. However, in their final match on Sunday, the Calypso netballers led for the first three quarters before falling to sixth ranked South Africa, 46-42.

But despite the poor run of results, coach Gomes who was using the matches as part of the team's preparations for

the 14th Netball World Cup in Sydney Australia, from August 7-16, said he was pleased with the performances achieved considering some of the challenges with regards to the cold weather and injuries.

The T&T coach was quick to point out that in comparisons to the matches between T&T and the teams last year to this tournament, the Calypso netballers boasting a few new faces have managed to closed the gap in terms of the margin of defeats. He added, "We have improved a lot defensively in that last year we had a lot of problem in the second phase of our game, but now we have managed to fix that problem mostly, and it's just a matter of us having that self-confidence.

http://www.guardian.co.tt/sport/2015-05-19/gomes-sees-improvement-calypso-netballers

Pictured: T&T netball team which competed at the Netball Europe Ranking Competition and Open Championship at the Antrim Forum, Belfast. Ms. Samantha Wallace, Ms. Kemba Duncan, Ms. Joelisa Cooper, Ms. Candice Guerrero, Ms. Rhonda John-Davis, Ms. Jellene Richardson, Ms. Onella Jack, Ms. Kalifa Mc Collin, Ms. Amanda Cameron, Ms. Afeisha Noel, Ms. Daystar Swift, Kielle Connelly. The Team's Reserves also included Ms. Sophia Candappa and Ms. Naida Hutchinson. **Photos: www.guardian.co.tt**

SECOND SILVER FOR BOVELL AT THE BELGIAN OPEN SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Italian-based T&T swimmer George Bovell had to settle for a silver medal in the men's 50m backstroke on the final night at the Belgian Open Swimming Championships at the Olympic Swimming Pool, Wezenberg, Antwerp on on Sunday May 17th 2015.

The 31-year-old Bovell clocked 25.70 seconds, swimming from lane three in the eight-man final to trail ADN clubmate Francois Heersbrandt who won in 25.50 seconds from lane four, while Greece's Michail Kondizas competing in lane five got bronze in 25.81.

It was the second silver medal for Bovell after he also placed second in the 50m breaststroke in a new national record on Friday 15th May 2015.

The others in the final were Nils Van Audekerke (26.64), Sjobbe Luyten (26.89), Maxime Andrien (26.98), Lander Hendrickx (27.18) and Michele Ratti (27.27)

Pictured: George Bovell celebrating his second place finish at Belgian Open Swimming Championships. **Photo: https://twitter.com/sporttco**

A day earlier, Bovell touched the wall in a personal best and national record mark of 27.69 seconds swimming from lane five, for silver in the men's 50m breaststroke final.

Greek swimmer, Loannis Karpouzlis won in 27.61 from lane four and home-town swimmer, Jonas Coreelman, got bronze in 28.75 from lane three.

Earlier in the morning session, the 31-year-old Bovell who is using the meet as part of his preparations for his two major events this year, the Pan American Games and FINA World Aquatic Championship had established a new T&T record of 28.10 when he won heat three of four from lane four.

But, that time was only good enough for the second best overall going into the final after Karpouzlis topped the fourth and final heat in 27.36 ahead of Bastian Caerts (29.27), France's Andy Dauphinot (30.41) and Andrien (30.63).

Edited from http://www.guardian.co.tt/s…/2015-05-18/second-silver-bovell

NEWS

BOREL SILVER, WALCOTT BRONZE BUT NATIONAL JAVELIN RECORD FALLS AGAIN

Keshorn Walcott re-set his own Trinidad and Tobago men's javelin record at the Sainsbury's Birmingham Grand Prix IAAF Diamond League meet in England, on Sunday June 7th 2015.

The reigning Olympic champion threw 86.43 metres to improve on the 86.20m standard he had established in Rome, Italy, last Thursday. Walcott's new national record earned him bronze in the competition.

Walcott's series of throws was impressive. He opened at 80.56m, and followed up with an 85.21m effort. The 86.43m T&T record came in round three, and was followed by an 85.59m throw. Walcott fouled in the fifth round, but bounced back to land the spear 84.97m in the sixth and final round.

Julius Yego had the statisticians busy, joining the 90-metre club with a huge 91.39m effort in round six. The monster throw re-set the Kenyan and African records. Czech Republic's reigning world champion, Vitezslav Vesely threw 88.18m to snap up silver.

Meanwhile, T&T's Cleopatra Borel threw the iron ball a season's best 18.80m to pick up silver in the women's shot put, behind Germany's Christina Schwanitz (19.68m). However, Jarrin Solomon trailed the field in the men's 300m, the T&T athlete finishing eighth in 33.22 seconds. South Africa's Wayde van Niekirk won in 31.63.

Pictured: Keshorn Walcot at the Sainsbury's Birmingham Grand Prix IAAF Diamond League. **Photo: AP**

WATCH THE VIDEO

IAAF Inside Athletics Season 3 - Episode 9 - Jehue Gordon

https://youtu.be/8CV5qoju30I

In the men's 100m, T&T sprinter Keston Bledman clocked 10.11 seconds to finish fifth in heat one and ninth overall in the qualifying round, just missing out on a top-eight finish and a lane in the final. American Marvin Bracy topped the championship race in 9.93.

At the Flanders Cup, in Belgium, on Saturday, T&T's Josanne Lucas triumphed in the women's 400m hurdles in 57.61 seconds.

At the Jim Bush Track and Field Championships, in California, USA, T&T athlete, Mikel Thomas struck gold in the men's 110m hurdles in 13.39 seconds.

Janeil Bellille seized silver in the women's 400m hurdles in a season's best 56.72 seconds. Magnolia Howell was sixth in the women's 400m in 54.96, and seventh in the 200m in 23.95.

In Florida, Semoy Hackett, back in competition after serving a 28-month doping ban, opened her season in fine style, securing silver in the Star Athletics Sprint Classic women's 200m. The T&T sprinter completed the half-lap race in 22.81 seconds. Shermund Allsop clocked 10.51 to finish second in the men's 100m "C" race.

At the New Jersey International Invitational, Andre Marcano bagged bronze in the men's 100m dash in 10.70 seconds. In the qualifying round, Marcano clocked 10.63, and Lalonde Gordon got to the line in 10.88.

https://www.guardian.co.tt/sport/2015-06-08/borel-silver-walcott-bronze-javelin-record-falls-again

ACTING HIGH COMMISSIONER MR. HERBERT VARIOUS DIPLOMATIC ENCOUNTERS

Pictured (from clockwise from top):

January 26th, 2015 - Acting High Commissioner Herbert was paid a courtesy call by Mr. Thomas Neisinger, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, German Foreign Office in Berlin;

February 12th 2015 - Acting High Commissioner Herbert with Mr. Jaun Monroy, Founder and President of the Latin American and Caribbean Cultural Society (LACCS-UK);

March 4th 2015 - Acting High Commissioner Mr. Tedwin Herbert with H.E. Foo Chi Hsia, High Commissioner for Singapore.

MINISTER TEWAIRE CARICOM'S CANDIDATE FOR THE POST OF COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY-GENERAL

On Wednesday 1st April, 2015 a reception was held at The Halkin in Belgravia on the occasion of the presentation of the candidature of Senator Dr. The Honourable Bhoendradatt Tewarie, Minister of Planning and Sustainable Develeopment for the position of Secretary-General of the Commonwealth.

The Governement of Trinidad and Tobago has decided to put forward the candidature of Dr. the Hon. Tewaire for the post of Commonwealth Secretary-General at the elections to be held during 24th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Malta in Novemeber.

At the reception, the programme included: Welcome remarks and message delivered by Mr. Tedwin Herbert, Acting High Commissioner; Feature address by Dr. the Hon. Tewaire and light refreshments

The following is an excerpt from Dr. the Hon. Tewaire during his feature address:

The Challenge and Opportunity for the Commonwealth

"Over the next decade the issues of how to manage, regulate and monitor a global financial system which was severely tested in 2008/2009 and which some believe to be fundamentally unsound will present a formidable challenge as the global economy continues to transform and restructuring of the production system intensifies. The Schumpeterian changes now taking place in the global energy economy will have serious implications for competitiveness, trade and investment. Moreover, future growth in the world is predicted to occur overwhelmingly in emerging and developing countries. Least developed countries will therefore have an opportunity to lift millions out of poverty while better off countries will have an opportunity to triumph over the middle income country trap and achieve stronger success. The highly industrialized countries of the Commonwealth will have new opportunities for investment, trade and partnerships. A glorious future awaits the countries of the Commonwealth in a transforming world economy. Moreover, the thrust for sustainable development is also likely to yield positive dividends for countries within the Commonwealth as well as progressive partnerships between some Commonwealth countries and other global players. With this transformation and restructuring at the economic level, geopolitical shifts will also present new opportunities. The 53 countries of the Commonwealth are likely beneficiaries of a changing world order that has already been set in motion. In the coming decade the Commonwealth will have a rare opportunity to shape the world, to influence change, to build a stronger partnership of Commonwealth nations, and to play a more meaningful role in the world's decision making."

PICTURED: *1)* Mr. Tedwin Herbert, Acting High Commissioner and Minister Tewarie welcoming H.E. Peter Allan Kallaghe, High Commissioner for Tanzania; **2)** Mr. Tedwin Herbert, Acting High Commissioner introduces H.E. Mrs. Aloun Ndombet-Assamb, High Commissioner for Jamaica to Minister Twearie; **3)** Cross section of the audience; **4)** Minister Tewarie, Mrs. Reshma Bissoon-Deokie, First Secretary and Dr. Sione Sonata Tupou, Acting High Commissioner of the Kingdom of Tonga; **5)** Dr. the Hon. Tewaire; **6)** Mr. Tedwin Herbert, Acting High Commissioner speaking with Minister Tewarie and a guest; **7)** Ms. Beverly Allen, Administrative Attaché speaks with a guest.

T&T RICH HERITAGE OF FLORA ON DISPLAY AT THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW

At Left and At Bottom: T&T Horticultural Society's 2015 prize-winning display at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show.
Below: (L-R) Acting High Commissioner Tedwin Herbert, Ms. Dominique Majani - Designer and Mr. Paul Duval - President - Horticultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago.
Photos: Andre Alexander

23rd May, 2015

With crowds of anxious people bustling to the entrance turnstiles, the atmosphere surrounding the Royal Horticultural Society Chelsea Flower Show was one of excitement. As a true mark of the beginning of summer, the sights of bursting colour from the exhibitions of horticultural talent and choreographed teams were marked by concepts each lovingly tended and artfully created. The floral displays were reminiscent of the Far East, the Caribbean and various parts of Africa, Latin America and Europe.

The Great Pavilion formed the centerpiece of the Show and featured the best British nurseries, plant societies, florists and science-led institutions alongside stunning displays from around the world. This year, a new team listed below, representing the Horticultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago, brought home a Silver Gilt Award in the Category of Great Pavilion:

- Mr. Paul Duval - President - Horticultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago
- Mr. Devata Ramlal - Lead Florist, Horticultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago
- Ms. Dominique Majani - Designer
- Mr. Yohann Govia - Agricultural Officer I (Ag), Horticultural Services Division, Ministry of Food Production

Trinidad and Tobago stood proudly in its allocated area with its prominent display of the steelpan figurine and the National colours denoted on the *Terrific and Tranquil* book. Captivating the hearts of the onlookers, many of whom consider themselves floral enthusiasts, the booth buzzed with the hum of excitement as many pushed and tugged to get a closer look at the artistic rendering of the Mahogany seeds, the Anthuriums, Water Lilies and Cocoa Pods. With a metaphorical representation of handcrafted virtual hummingbirds, against a backdrop of dried plant material, lush foliage and an expanse of colourful blooms, the site was truly a creative concept.

TTHC LONDON WELCOMES CAPTAIN MOHAMMED, DEFENCE ATTACHÉ

Pictured: Captain Hiram Mohammed, Defence Attaché

Captain Hiram Mohammed was born on 23rd March 1964 in Chaguanas, Trinidad, the second child of Shaffie and Shirley Mohammed. His secondary education was completed at Hillview College, Tunapuna in 1980.

Having enlisted into the military on 8th June 1983, Captain Mohammed holds the distinction of being the only enlisted person in the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard to have attained the rank.

His professional training includes the International Midshipman's Course at BRNC (UK 1984), Navigation Watch Keeping Course at the Canadian Coast Guard College (1987), Small Ship's Command Course at HMS Dryad (UK 1992), and the Advanced Command Course at China's National Defence University (2002). Other training ranges from Leadership and Command, Motivation and Success, Quality Management and Customer Service, to Process Mapping, Crisis Management, Critical Incident Control Management, and Project Management. Captain Mohammed is GMDSS certified and qualified as an ISPS Inspector. Furthermore, he attended various IMO training courses on Maritime Security, is a past student of the George C. Marshall European Centre for Security Studies, and holds an MSc in National Security and Strategic Studies.

Captain Mohammed has excelled at both afloat and ashore duties. He is an excellent ship captain and has functioned creditably as Unit and Formation Commander, as Chief Staff Officer, and as Aide-de-Camp to two of the country's Presidents. He has sat as an active member on various committees for, but not limited to; GMDSS Implementation, SAR Coordination, Fisheries Protection, Precursor Chemicals, and the procurement of major military assets.

Separate from his military career, Captain Mohammed is keenly involved in several community forums focusing on youth development. He was formerly a member of the T&T Elite Basketball Club and, in his home town; he is an avid member of the Arouca Hustlers Sports Club as well as the Band Leader of the Arouca Boys Town Steel Orchestra. Furthermore he is infrequently engaged as an Honorary Game Warden, being both a conservationist and a naturalist at heart.

Captain Mohammed is married to the former Wendy Phillip. They have a 29 year old son, Aqeel Adam, and a four month old grandchild, Adejah Amerie. Their permanent address is at Arouca, Trinidad, where their family also includes their three dogs, Cinder, Hecuba and Midnight.

THE MISSION WELCOMES A NEW IMMIGRATION ATTACHÉ

Pictured: Mr. Sherwin Johnson, Immigration Attaché

On April 17th, The High Commission welcomed our new Immigration Attache, Mr. Sherwin Johnson. Mr. Johnson will primarily be responsible for Passport Department.

The Mission warmly welcomes Mr. Johnson and is confident his stewardship of Immigration matters will lead to the enhanced capacity of department.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO WORLD WAR II DIARIES

Friday 8th May 2015 was the anniversary of VE Day (Victory in Europe Day) in the UK, marking 70 years since the end of the second world war in Europe.

Great Britain commemorated the occasion with various events across the UK. We recommend our readers to take at the unparalleled first of its kind in the Caribbean, two part feature which shares some of the extraordinary moments and near death experiences from Trinidad and Tobago's World War II veterans. Retired officer Gaylord Kelshall, author and creator of The Chaguaramas Military History and Aviation Museum expounds on the Caribbean region and its importance geopolitically and strategically during World War I.

WATCH THE VIDEO:

https://youtu.be/RT6ZIo-gETM

EYE ON TRADE

INTERNATIONAL FASHION SHOWCASE 2015 **THE NEXT IN LINE - ADRIAN FOSTER**

Adrian Foster, graduate of the Caribbean Academy of fashion and Design at the University of Trinidad and Tobago invited to participate in IFS 2015

Pictured: Mr. Adrian Foster, Designer, showcasing design selected for display at IFS 2015.
Photo courtesy UTT

The International Fashion Showcase (IFS) established in 2012 is an annual joint initiative of the British Council and the British Fashion Council to showcase the work of emerging international fashion designers during London Fashion Week. The event is coordinated in collaboration with London embassies and cultural institutes to showcase their country's most exciting designers in an exhibition that reflects their nation's contemporary culture.

Adrian Foster was invited to participate in the new IFS initiative called – Next in Line, which featured ten additional international designers. The Next in Line served as a separate showcase featuring these designers as the ones to watch for upcoming participation in IFS the following year. Adrian graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Fashion and Fine Arts in 2012 from the Caribbean Academy of Fashion Design (CAFD) at The University of Trinidad and Tobago. Shortly thereafter, Adrian launched his self-titled fashion brand – ADRIAN FOSTER. In describing his line, Adrian states his goal is "to launch a Caribbean lifestyle fashion brand that will create a line of contemporary women's clothing and accessories to promote the Caribbean's aesthetic in a fresh modern artistic form".

Adrian's participation in IFS 2015 was sponsored by the Caribbean Academy of Fashion and Design of the University of Trinidad and Tobago and supported by the High Commission for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, London. Adrian was accompanied by Sandra Carr, Fashion Design Coordinator and Lisa Sinanan, Fashion Management Coordinator of the CAFD.

During IFS, Adrian Foster participated in the 'Designer Support Programme', a network of fashion affiliated academics and researchers that helped designers prepare for IFS and develop their businesses through the mentoring opportunities and seminars. The Designer Support Programme consisted of six seminars and three (3) site visits and covered topics ranging from sustainability and sales to PR and application of digital media.

Through attendance at the seminars, Adrian received advice from Michelle De Conto, the Business Support Advisor at the British Fashion Council on the importance of proper branding and brand positioning. She highlighted the benefits of research and development and the key elements needed to successfully support a fashion business. Ms Orsola de Castro, Co-founder of Fashion Revolution and Tamsin Lejeune, the Founder and CEO of Ethical Fashion Source discussed the importance of building a sustainable fashion business given the consumer interest in eco-friendly strategies. Ms De Castro started her business using fabric end waste from manufacturing companies to create 'one of a kind' pieces. Her flourishing company captured the attention of several well known retail brands such as H&M to utilise fabric ends from the company's production processes to create a line of sustainable products.

Jessica Dubek, the conductor of the On/Off Portfolio Session critiqued Adrian Foster's Portfolio and Look Book design layout. She was impressed with the contemporary design of the Shadows Ready-to-wear look book and its contents. Adrian was further encouraged to continue his experimentation with resort and sportswear as his designs conveyed a sporty ready-to-wear look.

Through conversations with Matthew Drinkwater, Head of Fashion Innovation Agency, Judith Tolley, Manager of Centre of Fashion Enterprise and Stavros Karelis, Fashion Designer and Buyer, Adrian learned about the preparation needed

Pictured (L-R): Mrs. Karen Thomas, Trade Facilitator, TTHC, Ms. Lisa Sinanan, Fashion Management Coordinator, CAFD, Ms. Sandra Carr, Fashion Design Coordinator, CAFD; Mr. Adrian Foster, Designer and Acting High Commissioner Tedwin Herbert. Photo: Lawson Lovell

for presenting his brand to buyers, understanding the market and developing his brand for the London market. Adrian states that one piece of advice that he plans to pay heed to was that offered by both Kendall Robbins and Stavros Karelis to "understand the local market first, build your business locally before venturing into the international market".

During his time at IFS 2015, Adrian observed the work of the designers from various countries that were on showcase and noted that a lot of the work consisted of both conventional and un-conventional items. He said "The designers were very experimental with their pieces and that is what made it interesting. It allowed me to understand that it is okay to experiment with my skill in order to create pieces that felt fresh and modern".

Adrian Foster believes that participating at LFS has been beneficial to him and the further development of his career. According to Adrian this platform afforded him the opportunity to:

- present his collection
- learn from industry experts through the mentoring programmes
- develop contacts in the UK and international fashion sectors
- gain valuable insight and feedback
- network with peers in the fashion industry
- access business support opportunities

Kendall Robbins, the Fashion Programme Manager at the British Council summed up the council's choice for selecting Adrian Foster to showcase "The British Council selected you because out of all the nominees that were sent you had the best professional images. They were clear and very professional. This industry is all about visuals and the first visual impression is important and that's how we were able to quickly make a decision".

Sandra Carr surmises that "as the university continues to grow and influence the local (T&T) industry, I foresee many more international opportunities and collaborations for the UTT, its students and alumni". She added that "the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, London had been a valuable partner in creating linkages, networking and revealing potential opportunities for emerging designers at the UTT. We hope to continue this partnership for the development and sustainability of our local fashion industry". Lisa Sinanan was impressed by the installations of the many different countries (over 30) which deepened her understanding of the influence of heritage and culture on fashion and urban wear. The highlight for her "was to witness on an almost visceral level, the spirit of international cooperation and national pride". Participation at IFS 2015 has raised the awareness of the fashion programmes being offered by the Caribbean Academy of Fashion Design (CAFD) and the role and contribution of the University of Trinidad and Tobago to the development of the fashion industry in the region.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO CREATES HISTORY WITH ITS HIGH PERFORMANCE CRICKET TEAM

Submitted by **THE UNIVERSITY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

On April 28th 2015 UTT's High Performance cricket team embarked on its first ever cricket tour and created history by being the first University team from the Caribbean to tour the UK for a period of ten (10) days. The planned trip was important not just for developing strategic linkages and performance enhancement but for an awareness of opportunity that exist (motivation), as well as to create avenues for international scouts to notice its High Performance student athletes in the sport of cricket. It also exposed UTT students from our premier cricket team to different playing conditions and moved them closer to becoming seasoned professionals.

1

2

3

Pictured: (1) Acting High Commissioner Mr. Tedwin Herbert meeting with Mr. Daren Ganga, Senior Manager Sport and Recreation of the University of Trinidad and Tobago; **(2)** Players of UTT High Performance Cricket team practicing at Lord's Cricket Ground and Marylebone Cricket Club in London; **(3)** Acting High Commissioner Mr. Tedwin Herbert with UTT High Performance Cricket team in Loughborough University in Leicestershire. **Photos courtesy The University of Trinidad and Tobago**

UTT has an established Academy of Sports (AOS) which is driven by the motto "Mens Sana in Corpore Sano"- A sound mind in a sound body. This AOS places emphasis on the value of fitness and health to students' achievement of academic excellence as well as its contribution to the development of sport as outlined in the National Sports Policy of Trinidad and Tobago. Further, the Academy stays close to the core values of Transparency, Accountability, Diversity, Integrity and Professionalism in its quest to achieving the University's strategic goals. It deals primarily with the student athletes in High Performance sports selected to develop their potential physically, technically and tactically in their chosen sporting disciplines. The University hopes that its High Performance Unit can maximize athletes' representation on National and International teams whilst providing sound development in academia. There is another important component of the Academy which relates to Students, University Campuses, Communities, Education and Sport Services (SUCCESS). This sub unit is responsible for conducting intramural and inter-campus activities; implementing basic recreational activities for staff; encouraging healthy lifestyles amongst the student population and also engaging the communities of Trinidad and Tobago in a positive way.

During the historic UK tour, the playing schedule included 50 Overs matches against Marylebone Cricket Club (May 1st), Cambridge (May 6th) and Oxford Universities (April 30th). Only one (1) T20 match was planned against Loughborough University (May 5th) and whilst there were some outstanding performances on the field (see match results below), UTT had the opportunity to meet with officials from the various teams/institutions who all expressed their willingness to collaborate. MCC, Oxford and Cambridge Universities were interested in partnering with UTT in the following areas:

1. Exchanges with Student-Athletes/ players, Sport Rehab/Medical Staff, Faculty and Coaches (not limited to cricket)

EYE ON TRADE

Pictured: Mr. Daren Ganga (back row, 3rd from left) and Acting High Commissioner Mr. Tedwin Herbert (back row, 4th from left) with Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) Cricket Team and UTT High Performance Cricket team before their match at Lord's Cricket Ground. **Photos courtesy The University of Trinidad and Tobago**

2. Reciprocal Tours of University/Club teams and student-athletes in various sporting disciplines (cricket, track and field, basketball etc.)

UTT has major plans to lead the development of two sport science labs (Bio Mechanical and Physiology) within a UTT Centre of Excellence for Sports to conduct research in sport and physical development. In realize these plans, UTT sought the assistance of Loughborough University (LU) since it is considered one of the leading sports Universities in the UK. In fact UTT and LU had previously signed a three (3) year MOU (2007-2010) to collaborate on sport science research and teaching; sports facility development and management; exchange of athletes and coaches. This visit on May 5th allowed Mr. Daren Ganga, T&T's Sports Ambassador and UTT's Senior Manager Sport and Recreation the opportunity to discuss the renewal of the expired MOU between UTT and LU. When the UTT traveling contingent visited Loughborough University in the East Midlands area for the T20 match, the group also benefitted from a presentation by Head Bio Mechanist, Dr Mark King (Loughborough's Specialist in Sports and Biomechanics). Such was the importance of re-establishing a formal relationship with one of UK's leading sports Universities that Mr. Tedwin Herbert, Trinidad and Tobago's Acting High Commissioner to London along with Mr. Navin Boodhai, UTT's VP Entrepreneurship and Business Development found it fit to be present. Dr. King gave an insightful presentation and committed to assisting UTT with the development of its Labs and renewal of the UTT/LU MOU.

The UTT team also had exposure opportunities off the field. On May 2nd, Mr. Daren Ganga using his capacity as a former International West Indian cricketer arranged for the UTT team to practice at Lord's Cricket Ground followed by a short tour at the home of cricket. This tour also included an opportunity to witness a county match between Middlesex Cricket Club and Durham Cricket Club. To add further excitement to the practice session, UTT players were fortunate to meet and receive words of advice from Owais Shah, the former England Test and ODI player. In addition, on May 3rd the UTT traveling contingent was invited to a lunch in Central London arranged by the TT High Commission and hosted by Mrs. Georgina Dillon, owner and editor of Kreol Magazine. UTT players were interviewed and questioned about their experiences thus far on tour and their intended career plans. It provided an opportunity for players to socialize with persons from different backgrounds and learn about new cultures. Subsequent to lunch, the traveling contingent had the opportunity to sight see in London and visit some of the most famous landmark sites in the world.

This UK tour was aligned with UTT's clear vision to become a universally recognized higher education Institute of Sport and Recreation to produce well-rounded nationals and world class athletes. The Academy of Sports through its High Performance Unit strives to be the leader in sport performance by consistently developing student-athletes to perform in the global arena. It is anticipated that International and National Sporting Bodies will continue to utilize the University's sports facilities which are staffed with highly trained personnel for the development of athletes. In this regard, UTT as the National University is axial in driving the development of this sector and playing an integral part in Trinidad and Tobago's quest for excellence in sport.

Match Results:

UTT v Oxford- Oxford 297-9; J Gonodde 109, A Sankar 4-56; UTT 80 all out: Oxford Won

UTT v MCC- MCC 328-8; J Harris 72*, T Smith 61, O Graham 54, A Daniel 2-45; UTT 192-5; R Mahase 67; T Nanan 48: MCC Won

UTT v LU- LU 181 for 6; UTT 41-2: LU Won by 12 runs D/L Method due to rain

UTT v Cambridge- Cambridge 215-10; P Hughes 64; S Chulhan 3-41; UTT 150-10; S Chulhan 33; R Crichard 3-36: Cambridge Won

THE 2015 LATIN FINANCE CARIBBEAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE FORUM (CIFF)

Submitted by **THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO IFC**

The 2015 Caribbean Investment & Finance Forum (CIFF) co-hosted by Latin Finance and the Trinidad and Tobago International Finance Centre (IFC) was held on March 4th and 5th 2015 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. This two day forum which brought local and regional public and private sector leaders together with international investors and thought-leaders, provided an opportunity to discuss matters related to infrastructure, energy, finance and banking in the Caribbean. A key theme throughout the forum was the current state of affairs and what is needed to achieve meaningful development for the Caribbean.

Pictured: In commemoration of the signing of an MoU between Toronto Financial Services Alliance and the Trinidad & Tobago IFC (L-R) Senator the Honourable Vasant Bharath, Minister of Trade, Industry, Investment & Communications, Ms. Janet Ecker – CEO and President, TFSA, Mr. Varun Maharaj, CEO, TTIFC, Senator the Honourable Larry Howai, Minister of Finance and the Economy and Mr. Franco Siu Chong, Chairman, TTIFC. **Photo courtesy TTIFC**

The keynote address was delivered by the Minister of Finance and the Economy, Senator the Honorable Larry Howai who noted the significance of hosting such a conference in Trinidad and Tobago as it continued the process of consolidating Trinidad and Tobago's position as an emerging international financial centre. The Minister noted that the forum was a very important milestone for the Trinidad and Tobago IFC, which is leading the country's efforts in attracting and facilitating foreign direct investment in the financial services sector and contributing to the national economic transformation thrust. It is expected that the operations of the Trinidad and Tobago IFC will contribute US$700-850 Million dollars per annum to GDP by 2019/2020.

Minister Howai highlighted some of the benefits being promoted by the Trinidad and Tobago IFC - benefits such as our stable democracy, proximity to North, Central and South America, low energy costs, a robust telecommunications infrastructure, and most importantly, a large and growing pool of English speaking finance and accounting professionals. These are key features which can position Trinidad and Tobago as the foremost location for international financial firms to set up operations in this part of the world.

Minister Howai also pointed out that the Trinidad and Tobago IFC has adopted a holistic approach for establishing an IFC by not focusing solely on the business transactions that can be facilitated but by ensuring that the required framework is in place to regulate the activity conducted by companies within the Trinidad and Tobago IFC. The proposed regulations will create an authority that will consist of an agency responsible for proposing laws and regulations and regulating the activity conducted within the IFC; an agency responsible for managing the operations of the IFC and an agency that will be a dispute resolution centre for transactions executed by firms operating within the IFC. This authority will be the only one in the region, and in fact, the first and only of its kind in the Western Hemisphere.

One of the highlights of day one of the forum was the formal commencement of the partnership between the Toronto Financial Services Alliance (TFSA) and the Trinidad and Tobago IFC who signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on January 20th, 2015. The partnership between TFSA and the Trinidad and Tobago IFC should result in collaboration in forums and other initiatives and allows this country to move closer to its goal of being recognized an emerging international financial centre. On day two of the forum international panelists joined Trinidad and Tobago IFC CEO Varun Maharaj to discuss the keys steps to establishing an effective International Financial Centre. Mark Yeandle, Director of Z/Yen Group started off the discussion by highlighting five broad areas that make an IFC competitive, namely the business environment, the financial sector development, infrastructure, human capital and reputation. According to Mr. Yeandle, any country striving to become an emerging IFC must offer financial institutions political stability and rule of law, depth and breadth of services, reliable and competitively priced infrastructure and transportation links, suitably qualified labor with flexible labor laws and a diverse culture. Janet Ecker, President and CEO of TFSA highlighted the collaborative efforts between Government and the financial sector as being key for the growth of the Toronto financial services sector. The support of the Government is important in order to ensure that a robust regulatory framework is in place to regulate activity in the IFC. Mark Beer, CEO and Registrar of the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) Courts provided three elements that are key for the success of an IFC. The first of which is credibility, which is important as

investors will only place their money in a country where they feel confident. The second element is to take advantage of opportunities that are available within the country while the third element requires to country to provide financial institutions with a new, competitive choice for them to do their business. Dubai was able to satisfy this need by setting up an IFC based on commonwealth law with which the financial institutions were familiar. Mr. Yeandle, Ms. Ecker and Mr. Beer all agreed that another IFC will be positive for the Caribbean, since the region will benefit from having more money flowing through its financial system, from the best practices of these international financial institutions being introduced, and from the economic activity due to the new high value jobs that will be created by the financial institutions that set up operations in the Trinidad and Tobago IFC.

Other noteworthy talking points from the forum were:

There is an urgent need for the private sector to lead the drive for economic development in the Caribbean.

In order to achieve meaningful development, the private sector should speak with one voice and provide politicians with the roadmap for the future.

Caribbean countries are doing their best to deal with the challenges brought about by falling commodity prices and revenue while finding opportunities for employment and providing for the needs of its citizens.

Caribbean countries must make the most of the lower energy bills and other opportunities due to the fall in energy prices such as reduction in their Petrocaribe debt.

Overall, the forum was filled with engaging discussions and thought provoking ideas about the future of finance in the Caribbean which should lead to the development of the financial services sector in Trinidad and Tobago and the region.

Pictured: International IFC Roundtable (L-R): Moderator, Mr. Andrew Roberts, Partner, Mr. Herbert Smith Freehills Ms. Janet Ecker, CEO and President, TFSA, Mr. Varun Maharaj, CEO, TTIFC, Mr. Mark Yeandle, Director, Z/Yen Group | Mark Beer – CEO & Registrar, DIFC Courts. **Photo courtesy TTIFC**

EXPORTT: TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE AND DIVERSIFIED EXPORT SECTOR FOR TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

The National Academy for the Performing Arts of the University of Trinidad and Tobago was the host and venue of this second symposium on concert music from the Caribbean held between the 8th and 11th November

In October 2012, exporTT Ltd. was designated by the Cabinet of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to be the sole National Export Facilitation Organization of Trinidad and Tobago with the mandate to:

- Generate export growth and diversification of the goods and services sectors
- Increase the international competitiveness of exporters
- Develop new exporters across the various sectors of interest
- Expand into new markets, based on intelligence gathered from market research conducted

This change meant that there was now an organisation focused exclusively on the diversification of exports from Trinidad and Tobago. In the past, manufacturing (non-energy related) and services exports, despite its significance to Trinidad and Tobago's economy, did not necessarily get the attention it deserved.

exporTT hit the ground running and quickly made the necessary adjustments to be export focused. We adopted the concise mission: "To develop a sustainable and diversified export sector for Trinidad and Tobago." Coupled with this are our core values which above all is to be customer centric. We understand that exporTT does not move containers and boxes; exporters

do! exporTT's role is to make sure the exporters are fully 'equipped' to do so.

What do exporters need?

exporTT spent considerable time trying to understand the basic needs of exporters. Some of the challenges identified by exporters included:

1. Lack of market information and intelligence
2. Lack of financing
3. Standards and certification requirements
4. Non-tariff barriers to trade
5. Inadequacy of shipping lines and high cost of freight
6. Lack of price competitiveness

This research was the starting point for exporTT. Four pillars of activity were subsequently agreed and are being pursued to assist exporters in overcoming these challenges:

- Providing Market Access :

  Covers market research and export promotion activities. These include gathering information on market entry requirements, determining export opportunities, in-market research, participation in trade shows and missions.

- Building Export Capacity :

  Identifies the competency gaps exporters have in entering particular markets and takes required action to address these issues. exporTT would for example, assist exporters in attaining Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) compliance which is a requirement for food and beverage exports to most developed markets. Such an activity would also be supported by technical guidance on packaging, product testing and reformulation of products. Within this area exporTT also offers a wide array of export related training and co-financing facilities which offset costs of up to 50% towards activities related to market entry.

- Creating an Export Enabling Environment :

  The infrastructure through which exports are effected. This includes inter alia entities such as the Ministry of Trade, Customs and Excise, Shipping Companies, Customs Brokers and Joint Councils for various trade agreements. In addition, exporTT is the sole Certifying Authority for bilateral trade agreements with territories such as the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica and Colombia.

- Fostering Product/Service Differentiation:

  Examines what can be done differently to appeal to the customers in the targeted markets. In today's competitive global environment it is necessary to differentiate the product and service offerings to appeal to the target market and effectively compete for market share. Continuous research is done in the markets to determine the particular preferences in terms of packaging, tastes and formulation, service delivery platforms etc. This information is shared with the exporters and support is given to effect necessary changes.

Work in Services

exporTT focuses on a number of key sectors within the services industries which includes: Energy Services, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Professional Services, Construction Services and Maritime Services.

Significant progress has been achieved in the development of Energy Services through collaboration with the Energy Chamber. Some of the activities completed to date are participation in the Get Energy Conference in the UK, Surimep in Suriname and the hosting of an Inward Mission for Colombian service providers, buyers and investors. Various seminars were also conducted addressing factors affecting the industry and market opportunities.

In terms of ICT, exporTT has recently signed on to 'The Global Services Promotion Programme' which is an Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) funded programme being executed by the Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development. The expected outcomes of this programme are increased exports and employment in the sector.

What has exporTT accomplished in the two years of its existence?

- Secured a total of US$1,759,220 in export orders as a direct result of interventions.
- Facilitated the transition of 100% of exporters from a paper-based to a digital application process for Certificates of Origin.
- Completed market surveys on 14 potential markets in Latin America, North America and the Caribbean.
- Conducted four trade missions to the French Caribbean Outermost Regions Dominican Republic and Costa Rica.
- Assisted 16 Companies in preparation for FDA inspections to ensure their continued access to the US market.
- Facilitated 462 Trade Enquiries.
- Disbursed TT$1,031,563 in Research and Development Grants to 9 companies as at Sept. 30th, 2014.

Planned activities for fiscal 2015:

- Market Research Mission for T&T's Services Sectors to the French Caribbean Outermost Regions - February to June 2015
- In-Market Research in the Dutch Caribbean territories of Aruba, Curacao and St. Maarten - March to May 2015
- Summer Fancy Food Show in New York City – June to July 2015
- Inward Buyer's Mission (InBuyTT 2015) - September 2015

Diversification of Trinidad and Tobago's economy away from its dependence on oil and gas is no small feat but exporTT is prepared for the challenge.

For more information on exporTT and the work that we do please visit our

EDITOR'S NOTE

*Dr. Nigel William's 3rd article in the series on **The Internationalization Imperative** will be featured in the **July - September 2015 Newsletter**.*

CONSULAR + STUDENT SERVICES

COMMONWEALTH EYE HEALTH CONSORTIUM (CEHC) SCHOLAR: DR DESIRÉE MURRAY

Pictured: Dr. Desirée Murray FRCOphth

The Consortium has awarded Dr. Desirée Murray with one of its very first scholarships to study for a Masters in Public Health for Eye Care (MPHEC) at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. Desirée is an Ophthalmologist and Lecturer in Ophthalmology at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago.

Dr. Murray is the chairperson of The Volunteers for World Sight Day, a not-for-profit non-governmental organization which was formed in Trinidad and Tobago in 2006 and which is dedicated to raising awareness about the causes of preventable blindness. She is also a past secretary/treasurer of the Ophthalmological Society of the West Indies (OSWI) and co-founder of the West Indian Society of Glaucoma Surgeons (WINGS).

Her main goal is to continue working towards the elimination of avoidable visual impairment and blindness in adults and children, through development, implementation and promotion of National Eye Health programmes. Particular areas of concern include cataract blindness, blindness from diabetic retinopathy and blindness due to open-angle glaucoma in adults and uncorrected refractive errors, retinopathy of prematurity and trauma in children. Universal and equitable access to eye care is the ultimate goal.

http://iceh.lshtm.ac.uk/iceh-cehc-lshtm-hosted-royal-highness-countess-wessex-50th-birthday-also-annouced-vice-patron-queen-elizabeth-diamond-jubilee/

At right: 20th January, 2015: CEHC MSc PHEC Scholar - Dr. Desiree Murray speaks with HRH The Countess of Wessex and HRH The Earl of Wessex at The International Centre for Eye Health (ICEH), Commonwealth Eye Health Consortium (CEHC) and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) reception for the Avoidable Blindness Programme of The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust. **Photos: The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust/Tara Moore**

The Commonwealth Eye Health Consortium

The Commonwealth Eye Health Consortium is a group of eye health organisations from several Commonwealth countries working together to deliver an exciting, integrated, five-year programme of fellowships, research and technology which aims, over the long-term, to strengthen eye health systems and quality of eye care throughout the Commonwealth.

The Consortium is funded by The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust.

For further information visit:
http://cehc.lshtm.ac.uk/

CONSULAR CORPS LUNCHEONS

On Thursday January 29th 2015 the Consular Corps hosted a luncheon featuring Her Majesty's Marshall of the Diplomatic Corps, Mr. Alistair Harrison CVO CMG. Tuesday 28th April 2015 saw Baron Professor Dr. Peter Piot, Director and Professor of Global Health at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, address diplomats on the Ebola pandemic. The Consular Corps of London is an association of all Consuls General, consular and diplomatic representatives working in London. Monthly luncheons afford overseas Missions the opportunity to network with colleagues from a wide range of countries and discuss common consular issues. The Consular and Education Division utilises these luncheons as a forum to promote the interests of Trinidad and Tobago, as well as its Diaspora. Valuable information regarding the operation of the UK Diplomatic Corps and recommendations for addressing the Ebola pandemic increases the capacity of the Division to lend support to capital and nationals when necessary.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO'S NOLANA LYNCH WINS THE CARIBBEAN & AMERICAS COMMONWEALTH YOUTH AWARDS

Pictured: Ms. Nolana Lynch with her award stands elated with winners from other Commonwealth regions. **Photos: The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust/ Tara Moore**

10th March, 2015

The Commonwealth Youth Awards for Excellence in Development work project is one attempt to raise the profile and highlight the contribution young people make to achieving development goals. These awards recognise young people aged 29 or under whose commitment to development work within a Commonwealth country has made a difference to the lives of others.

Designed to help celebrate the role of young people as nation builders and partners in development, the Awards offer young people under 30 an opportunity to share their contribution and inspire others to get involved and international recognition and support for their development project.

Young people throughout the Commonwealth undertake projects and initiatives ranging from poverty alleviation to conflict prevention and resolution, in their diligent efforts at promoting and enhancing their democracy and development.

Ms Nolana Lynch is a climate change and environmental sustainability advocate, whose work has impacted 15-20 non-profit organisation. She has helped to provide aid to impoverished communities and spearheaded sustainable agriculture projects in several Caribbean Countries. Nolana is a National Youth Award winner and her eco-friendly, all-natural skin and hair care line 'Eco-Truffles' uses sustainable raw materials from rural women producers throughout the Caribbean.

A noteworthy shortlisted finalist is Mr. Marcus Kissoon, who is 2012 National Award for Volunteerism winner. The activist, who has been campaigning for gender equality and an end to gender based violence, is one of the founding members of the Organisation for Abused and Battered Individuals. The programme has trained and sensitised more than 2,000 young people in schools, vocational centres, and orphanages on child abuse, and addressed sensitive issues, including male rape.

Each of the 16 regional finalists received a £1,000 grant, a trophy and a certificate. There are four prizes per Commonwealth region with the top entry from each receiving the Regional Commonwealth Award. All were presented with trophies at the Royal Over-Seas House in London.

The four regional winners will receive an additional £2,000, a trophy and a certificate. In addition to a cash prize, trophy and a trip to London to meet Commonwealth leaders, winners were given the opportunity to develop valuable networks and contacts.

http://thecommonwealth.org/media/press-release/commonwealth-youth-awards-finalists-announced

To watch the Commonwealth Youth Awards Ceremony and listen to the awardees shared experiences in youth development and empowerment work please visit:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1uHwgUPw8fg

CONSULAR + STUDENT

4000 CHILDREN MAKE HISTORY IN T&T

Submitted by **GIGI MORLEY, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO YOUNG VOICES**

On a perfect sunny Saturday afternoon in May I looked at my watch and realized that I had just enough time to take it all in before appearing on stage.

My eyes moved in slow motion from one end of the venue to the other, everything seemed to be quiet and I was completely lost in the moment. My brain must have needed to separate the vision from the sound because in reality, it was anything but quiet.

The sight alone took my breath away, the Grand Stand Queens Park Savannah bursting at the seams with 4000 beautiful primary school children from across Trinidad and Tobago.

The knowledge that these children aged 6-12 were from every race, religious persuasion, socio economic background, class, creed and culture made me pep talk myself into staying dry eyed. Once I absorbed the vision and heeded the pep talk, my ears were ready and suddenly a wall of sound hit me: 4000 children belting out a Lion King medley:

"Hakuna Matata! What a wonderful phrase
Hakuna Matata! Ain't no passing craze
It means no worries for the rest of your days
It's our problem-free philosophy
Hakuna Matata!"

A massive smile erupted across my face and a feeling of elation that made me jump up and down clapping my hands like the children I was watching.

At that exact moment, every mountain I had to climb, obstacle I had to overcome, bureaucratic letter I had to write, difficult meeting I had to chair, you must be crazy look I smiled through and chickingunya pain I had to endure, all paled into insignificance and it was ultimately all worth it.

Above: A section of 4000 primary school children from T&T Young Voices (TTYV); **At left:** Mr. Neval Chatelal, Mrs. Tessanne Chin, Mr. Randolph Matthews, Mrs. Lorraine Granderson, Mrs. Neisha "JUS'TIS" Guy Nishard M, Ms. Gigi Morley. **Photos: TTYV Facebook page**

I've seen thousands of amazing children sing as one massive choir over 100 times in the UK and it never ever gets old but nothing could have prepared me for witnessing it in Trinidad & Tobago.

Twenty years ago impresario David Lewis created a business in the UK called Young Voices (YV) which helps to reverse the decline in music education in schools.

YV is now the largest, most exciting children's choir concert series in the world and has introduced over 1 million children to a diverse selection of music (soul, pop, rock, classical) and to unique performance opportunities.

Unique because every child that participates gets the chance perform with 5-8000 other children as one choir alongside their favourite stars like Alexandra Burke, Joss Stone and Beverly Knight, in front of an audience of 8 -15000 people in the world's most famous venues like the London O2 Arena.

What I love most about Young Voices is that it's not a competition, you don't need to be in a school choir or play an instrument, just have a love of music and a dedicated teacher to help learn the songs and with good reason.

Research shows the benefits to learning music: improvement in academic achievements (literacy, numeracy, language), an improvement in behaviour and social skills as well as music helps develop technical and artistic skills and a deep sense of well being. The benefits of being in a choir are also well-documented: it promotes the ability to work in a team, bolsters self esteem and even contributes to health and well being by regulating breathing, reducing heart rate and stress levels.

Just in case you're thinking sounds nice but not necessary, hear me out. In the Caribbean we put maximum emphasis on academic achievement as a measure of success and quite rightly so but we don't all learn at the same pace, have the same aptitude or talents. What about our children who are at a disadvantage, have less chance of achieving academic excellence the traditional way?

What about the young men who slip through the net and end up in a life of crime? What do we do about them?

According to the YMCA, 1in 9 violent crimes in Trinidad and Tobago are committed by young men under the age of 21. The report of the Youth at Risk Committee 2013 states that the propensity to crime is a result of broken families, juvenile delinquency, failure at school and gang membership. Recommend solutions include adequate housing, an improved education system, family support and enriching leisure and creative activities.

Music is an enriching leisure and creative activity and when given the opportunity to bring Trinidad & Tobago Young Voices (T&TYV) to life, I felt compelled to give it my all for the sake of our children. The former T&T High Commissioner to London, His Excellency Garvin Nicholas saw Young Voices live at the O2 Arena and said "I found Young Voices to be an incredibly moving experience. I truly believe that the rigours of preparing for this live performance can contribute to the personification of the watchwords of our nation: Discipline Tolerance Production".

The children of Trinidad and Tobago deserve to experience the same level of excellence as children in the UK but this as you might imagine was easier said than done. After 20 years of success in the UK, Young Voices is a well oiled machine with tried and tested processes. In Trinidad as a completely new concept it took some creative thinking and a reliance on extraordinary individuals in high and not so high places prepared to go above and beyond the call of duty.

It started with 4 key people, Young Voices founder David Lewis, former T&T High Commissioner to London Garvin Nicholas, Bishop Anstey choir mistress Ms. Lorraine Granderson and Minister of Arts and Multiculturalism Dr. Lincoln Douglas. They believed in the nation building potential of T&TYV and were pivotal in helping Young Voices to foster partnerships with the Ministries of Education, Transport and National Security.

It took 8 months to recruit our choir, in the UK it takes about 2. Most schools did not have a designated music teacher just one willing to take a chance. There weren't funds for teacher workshops or dvds with dance moves but a great Musical Director Mr. Anthony Woodroffe and curriculum officers like Marceline Peters and Allison Seepaul willing to give of their time and expertise.

Our schools don't have dedicated school buses to transport the children to and from the venue but 4000 of our children travelled on special PTSC buses from Arima, Arouca, Biche, Bucco, Diamond Vale, D'Abadie, Curepe, Caripachaima, Ecekel Village, Laventille, Lambeau, Maraval, Moruga, Paramin, Penal, San Fernando, Scarborough, Tacarigua, Trincity, Valencia, Vance River, Williamsville, Westmoorings and every town and village in between over land and sea to sing together in harmony as one voice, as one choir!

Never before has there been such an expression of unity in diversity in the Caribbean where children and singing are concerned.

The repertoire was chosen specifically to inspire, challenge and motivate. Songs like Celebration by Kool and the Gang, Panis Angelicus sung entirely in latin, Lean on me, Happy by Pharrel, Mangoes, One Love my Bob Marley, to name a few.

Above: A section of 4000 primary school children from T&T Young Voices (TTYV); **At bottom:** St Margarets Boys accompany the T&T Young Voices during Panis Angelicus. **Photos: TTYV Facebook page**

Thanks to Digicel, the T&T Young Voices choir sang with:

- Winner of America's NBC hit show THE VOICE Season 5 - Tessanne Chin
- Digicel Rising Stars Winner Neval Chatelal
- Digicel Rising Stars Winner Neisha Guy
- Chutney soca star Nishard M

Thanks to Young Voices UK who funded all of the concert production the children also sing with UK artiste Randolph Matthews. It was an unforgettable experience for the choir, their teachers, the audience and everyone else involved.

"*I am still on cloud 9 from last Saturday's experience!!*

You were not wrong in the lead up to this historic event. The concert was a life time experience for the children, that touched everyone's hearts!

We were blown away by the competence of the bus drivers who were on time and served us well. The arrangements at the savannah on entry made us feel very important.. red carpet Everyone knew their portfolio and delivered with precision.

The students were well taken care of at all times and the flow of the programme was admirable. I heard one of my students remark, "they are starting at exactly 4 o'clock!!"

The snacks were enough and served in an orderly fashion. The wash rooms were adequate with workers doing the clean up ever so often. We felt safe all day. Thank you for your patriotism to T&T. Register us for 2016, we are with the team!"

Linda Abraham Sahadeo, Tacarigua Presbyterian

"East Port of Spain is a most challenged living space so it is not normal for students to have a completely positive and exhilarating experience. Thank you for providing an opportunity in the form of a platform that gave our infants a moment that they now have as a memory for their lifetime.

My teachers who were selected to participate also had a moment and the expressions of excitement and delight about the event is also their memory.

They shared on Monday with staff that

T&T YV provided the most memorable experiences for sharing and gave teachers a bigger heart for students. Most important is that those teachers can now believe what I've said about the ability of singing to transform. When singing transforms teachers, they enrich the learning environment.

Our boys are singing aloud as they traverse the corridors. They are happy.

Eastern Boys' Government thanks you for the moment and the memory.

My teachers began their postmortem and are planning for 2016. Let us know when registration is open.

God's Blessing be upon you."

Jemima Riley, Principal Eastern Boys

Have a look at concert day in all its glory on the Trinidad and Tobago Young Voices Facebook page. With approximately 129,000 primary school children in T&T, Trinidad & Tobago Young Voices should not be a one hit wonder but a sustainable program with year on year growth. The children who made history as part of this inaugural concert should be watching their children perform in years to come.

David Lewis was kind enough to share this awesome programme with us even before it hit America for the first time on June 4th. It's now our responsibility to honour what he created, fund it ourselves and really make it our own for the love of our children and the sake of our nation.

Contact us at ttyoungvoices@gmail.com to know more.

Pictured: Front row at T&T Young Voices singing along to 'One Family' From left to right Mrs. Nicholas, Mr. Garvin Nicholas, Attorney General, Dr Tim Gopeesingh, Minister of Education, Mr. David Lewis, Young Voices Founder, Dr. H. Lincoln Douglas, Minister of Arts and Multiculturalism, Mrs. Nadica McIntyre, Permanent Secretary Ministry of Tourism. **Photos: TTYV Facebook page**

LAUNCH OF THE COMMONWEALTH STUDIES CONFERENCE LEADERS

The 2015 Commonwealth Study Conference Leaders (CSC Leaders) programme was launched in spectacular style at St James's Palace on Monday April 13th 2015. CSC Leaders is a global leadership programme; which brings one hundred exceptional senior leaders from government, business and non-governmental organisations across the Commonwealth, together, to explore a set challenge and impart leadership practices. This programme is a direct result of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh's initiative to assemble a diverse company of equals to share and explore best practice from around the Commonwealth.

This year's challenge is: "What makes a city smart?": a challenge which had been put to participants at a student's programme held in Trinidad and Tobago in 2014. With the support of host University Partner, the University of the West Indies, and the sponsorship of BP, this challenge was addressed by students at the University's St Augustine Campus, at a CSC Leaders for students programme held from May 20th to 23rd 2014. This programme attracted 173 applications from students from 11 different countries throughout the Caribbean. The CSC Leaders programme, held annually, has been attended by leaders from BP Trinidad and Tobago, trade union heads, as well as professors from the University of the West Indies.

EMBASSY EVENT EXPOSITION 2015

A briefing at the Embassy Event Expo in April 2015 addressed issues of protocol and VIP security. Major events identified as catalysts for trade were identified, including, the Rugby World Cup, the 2nd International Festival of Business 2016, Innovate UK and the resuscitation of the Northern Powerhouse. A briefing on opportunities to partner with UK museums and cultural organisations revealed key information which will be utilised during upcoming Diaspora engagement projects.

The Consular and Education Division is seeking buy-in on a number of Diaspora Engagement projects from relevant Ministries as well as the Diaspora. The High Commission plans to utilise its various links to nationals residing in accredited countries to strengthen links with expatriates from Trinidad and Tobago.

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TEOCAH DOVE RECIEVES QUEEN'S YOUNG LEADERS AWARD FROM QUEEN ELIZABETH II

On 23rd June 2015, Trinidad and Tobago national Ms. Teocah Arieal Anika Dove was one of 60 Commonwealth awardees to receive the Queen's Young Leader Award from Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace in London.

Ms. Dove is preparing to launch the Phoenix Project, a programme aimed at transforming the lives of at-risk children and youth locally. Ms. Dove, a Chevening scholar with close to ten years of volunteerism, advocacy and activism experience was one of the first female recipients of this honour.

In a press release issued on Tuesday, the British High Commission in T&T described the Queen's Young Leader Award as one which recognised exceptional youth, (aged 18-29), who have shown substantial commitment and verve as a leader in community development. The award comes with a huge expectation, that the awardees would use the prestige and training package, mentoring and network endorsed by Queen Elizabeth to continue their work in communities to transform and change lives.

Pictured: HRM Queen Elizabeth presenting the Queen Young Leader Award to Ms. Teocah Dove. **Photo: The British Monarchy**

After receiving the award, Ms. Dove said she felt humbled. "It was a truly humbling experience, especially hearing my name called alongside T&T to meet the Queen to receive the award," Dove said. She was told by Queen Elizabeth that she had been doing great work and was encouraged to keep it up.

Ms. Dove will be staying in the UK for a four-day residential programme with fellow awardees as part of her prize. The programme includes workshops at Cambridge University, meeting with top UK business leaders and visits to live-changing social action projects. She has launched The Teocah Dove Legacy Foundation.

In July, Ms. Dove will begin preparation and resource mobilisation for a project she created, entitled The Phoenix Project, an "evidence-based social intervention" aimed at transforming the lives of at-risk and vulnerable children and youth in T&T.

Edited from http://www.guardian.co.tt/news/2015-06-25/trini-gets-queen%E2%80%99s-young-leader-award

AVOIDING ONLINE SCHOLARSHIP SCAMS

The High Commission has been advised by the Ministry of Public Administration of an online scholarship scam purporting to provide "state-funded" scholarships for Trinidad and Tobago professionals. The website *http://trinidad.statefundedscholarships.com* bears the Coat of Arms of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and purports to have the approval of the Trinidad and Tobago "High Commission in Washington." Visitors to the site are asked to provide detailed information and pay a registration fee of Two Hundred United States Dollars in order to initiate the process to receive guaranteed scholarship opportunities.

Please be advised that the Ministry of Public Administration is in no way associated with the website *http://trinidad.statefundedscholarships.com* The Ministry advises that "the site appears to contain false and misleading information, and its interface is designed to create the impression that the scholarships offered have been sanctioned by the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago."

Please be guided accordingly and share this information with those of your cohorts who may fall prey to this online scholarship scam

CULTURE + TOURISM

TOP FOOTBALL LEGENDS FLOCK TO TOBAGO

Pictured: (From top) Mr. Dwight Yorke with Mr. Louis Saha in Tobago at host hotel Magdalena Beach and Golf Resort. **Photos courtesy Tobago Division of Tourism and Transportation**

Top Premier League stars to play in new Tobago tournament set for June 2015.

January 5, 2014

Trinidad and Tobago is gearing up to play host to some of the most skilful, tenacious, cultured, and famous footballers ever to grace the Premier League for a major new tournament scheduled next summer. Organisers of the star-studded event have promised to unveil some "special" famous names closer to the event next June. But a vast array of talent has already been signed up, led by Tobago's own Legend and former Manchester United star Dwight Yorke. This includes former Chelsea team mates and top club managers Roberto Di Matteo and Gus Poyet. Ex-England winger Darren Anderton, will be joined by England team mate Ugo Ehiogu, former France and Man. United star Louis Saha, Dutch international Pierre Van Hooijdonk and ex- Portugal and Arsenal star Luis Boa Morte. The British Airways Tobago Football Legends Challenge is set to kick off June 15 - 22, 2015. It will see teams representing top UK clubs such as Chelsea, Arsenal, Tottenham, Aston Villa Liverpool and Manchester United face off against each other alongside the PFA and Caribbean All Stars select teams. The six-aside Legends tournament will host 64 of the best players ever to play the sport competing in high quality games amid the sumptuous Tobago scenery "Already things are coming together for an exceptional event," said Tracy Davidson-Celestine, Secretary for Tourism & Transportation. "Big names are supporting this world class sports event that forms part of our strategy to raise the destination's profile in key markets and position Tobago as a healthy, active and beautiful jewel among Caribbean islands." The Divisions of Tourism and Transportation, Education Youth and Sport have teamed up with leading UK airline British Airways, the Professional Footballers' Association which represents past and present professional footballers in the UK , the Tobago Football Association and a host of local supporters to bring the footballing greats to play on island. Top TV broadcaster Sky Sports will also air a 90 minute documentary on the event. "It is safe to say that this Legends event will bring more stars to the island than any sporting competition ever held here," said Canaan native Dwight Yorke. "The buzz among the guys is amazing and everyone can't wait to get the action going." Tobago football fans and visitors to the island will get to see their sporting hero's up close. "This event has been on my calendar for some time said Roberto Di Matteo, the ex-Chelsea star who led the club to the Champions League as manager in 2012. "The people of Tobago better get ready to witness some seriously competitive sport amid that beautiful island scenery."

Others set to attend echoed the desire for the games to begin. "I came over for the launch event in November and saw what a beautiful place Tobago is and what wonderful hospitality it provides," according to Louis Saha. "The atmosphere will be great and the games will be electric as we put on a show for all our fans and supporters." To ensure a lasting legacy from the tournament, the football legends have agreed to participate in a major community outreach programme, which will see them travelling the length and breadth of the island working with local children. Schools, clubs and academies will benefit from clinics, courses , kit and equipment donations. And the best young players in Tobago will also get a chance to try out in front of their hero's as the search for the next Tobago football star continues. "We are all happy to get involved in helping push sport forward in the local communities of Tobago," said former Tottenham star Darren Anderton. "We can't wait to visit schools and clubs and interact more directly with local children. "

10 REASONS WHY TINY TOBAGO LEADS TOURISTS TO THE REAL CARIBBEAN

The tiny island of Tobago is leading the way in authentic tourism in the Caribbean with the recent release of an in depth travel guide with responsibletravel.com.

Highlighting what the island has to offer in terms of culture, food, wildlife and nature, the travel guide now offers a leading resource for travellers wanting to discover what the real Caribbean has to offer beyond the region's legendary beaches.

Responsibletravel.com managing director, Justin Francis, says "Despite its size Tobago is setting a real example to other Caribbean destinations in terms of responsible, authentic tourism.

With insider tips, podcasts and expert advice from local Tobagonians, our new travel guide gives tourists a chance to discover that a Caribbean holiday can be much more enriching than just a traditional beach break".

Taken from the guide, responsibletravel.com gives **10 reasons to visit Tobago**, each offering a unique chance to experience authentic Caribbean life.

1 **Board a boat:** Its cove-filled coastline and outlying Little Tobago and Goat Islands, are best explored from the water, giving tourists a chance to be a real pirate of the Caribbean.

2 **World-class underwater wildlife:** Jacques Cousteau rated Tobago's Buccoo Reef as the third most spectacular reef in the world, not surprising that the island has some of the best diving in the Caribbean. The region's underwater world is much more accessible here, with glass-bottom boats offering a glimpse for non-divers and an immersive treat for snorkelers.

3 **Turtle time:** Discover some of the Caribbean's most secretive residents. Hawksbill and endangered giant Leatherback turtles lay their eggs on Tobago's Caribbean shores, around Courland Bay, Grafton Beach and Mt Irvine Back Bay from March to September each year.

4 **Bountiful birdlife:** Tiny Tobago has one of the highest densities of birds in the world, from tiny

hummingbirds to the blue-crowned motmot and even non-birders will be impressed by the number of brightly coloured, iridescent feathered friends.

5 **Roam the rainforest:** The Main Ridge Forest Reserve has protected the islands trees and main source of freshwater since 1776, when it was a pioneer of conservation. Now visitors can roam the 10,000 acres of untouched rainforest in search of armadillos, hummingbirds, peccaries and iguanas.

6 **Local recipes over international imports:** Tobagonian cuisine is stubbornly and deliciously local and often the only option served. For real homemade food, to recipes passed down through generations, try the kiosks at the Store Bay Beach Facility, or go more upmarket at the Sea Horse Inn at Mt Irvine Bay.

7 **Be a beach bum with a difference:** The Caribbean is famous for its beaches, and Tobago had its fair share of the quintessential white sand and turquoise sea. But with close offshore reefs for snorkelling, and hidden golden sand bays only accessible by boat it offers much more than the standard beach break

8 **Hail local heritage:** With home-grown festivals across the island each month, there's no escaping traditional Caribbean culture on Tobago. The Tobago Heritage Festival, each July & August parades its way around the island, with individual communities showcasing their own cultural highlights, from live percussion, conch-blowing and the 'cocoa dance'.

9 **Delve into history:** The English, Dutch, French and Latvians have all fought over Tobago, and its colonial history has shaped the island today. Heritage festivals and forts may tell some stories, but the best tales are those told by the Tobagonians themselves.

10 **Lime with the locals:** Authentic Caribbean culture abounds on Tobago, and visitors are invited to chill, chat and join in. Stop by the famous weekly Sunday School in Buccoo for

steelpan music, limbo, craft and food stalls, and with local people and local rum punch it's a true Tobagonian beach party.

To find authentic holidays to Tobago, visit the new responsibletravel.com travel guide at http://www.responsibletravel.com/holidays/tobago/travel-guide

CULTURE & TOURISM

CANADIAN DELEGATION OPTIMISTIC TOWARD TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES IN T&T

Pictured: Prime Minister Kamla Persad- Bissessar (center) stands among some members of the Canadian Delegation during visit to the Office of the Prime Minister. Also photographed is the Minister of Trade, Industry Investment and Communications,Senator the Honourable Vasant Bharath (left) and Minister of Works and infrastructure and Ag. Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Honourable Dr. Surujrattan Rambachan, MP (1st from right). **Photos courtesy Office of the Prime Minister**

16th January, 2015

The head of the visiting 33-member Canadian trade delegation, Senatror the Honourable Dr. Don Meredith and MP Joe Daniel both addressed media at the weekly post-Cabinet media briefing at the Prime Minister's office in St. Clair.

Senator Meredith said he had been meeting with members of Government including Trade Minister, Vasant Bharath and Tourism Minister Gerald Hadeed to discuss various investment opportunities in the tourism sector of Trinidad and Tobago including the construction of hotels, roadways, eco-tourism, other social structures and potential Public Private Projects.

Meredith noted that their objective was to "seek opportunities in this country. Positive first steps were taken during the visit in terms of some deliverables on some infrastructure programs in the local ICT sector, finance and in the agricultural projects."

He added that he was "looking forward to that day when we can sign a Free Trade Agreement."

Meredith said the delegation was "leaving with a sense of optimism and enthusiasm and will continue to support even though we do not have an agreement in place."

The tourism sector has not been fully developed and fully engaged and we hope to do that and in terms of the social infrastructures that can be built here," Meredith said.

Asked about the crime in Trinidad and Tobago affecting the visits, Meredith stated that "incidents happen everywhere and we need to deal with this on a case by case basis."

He also noted that "One of his colleagues is looking to increase air traffic to Tobago and Port of Spain, with respect to more flights on Caribbean Airways, WestJet and additional flights on other carriers to attract more people to the local tourism sector."

Daniel also took the opportunity to comment on fluctuating oil prices saying that "You can't just cut back everything because this downturn won't last forever."

WEEKLY BRAZIL FLIGHTS FROM TOBAGO

19th January, 2015

The Division of Tourism and Transportation of the Tobago House of Assembly has announced that effective January 31 there will be weekly direct flights between Tobago and Sao Paulo Brazil.

According to the THA, Brazil's largest airline, GOL, will provide the service which will also stop in Barbados.

The seven-hour direct flight will significantly reduce the time that passengers take to get from Brazil to Tobago.

GOL officially launched the service online on January 15 to allow for online bookings at a special introductory fare of US $599 return.

With the commencement of this flight, another route between Barbados and Tobago has been opened up and the fare on that sector of the flight will be US $235 for economy and US $352 for premium economy.

Secretary of Tourism and Transportation, Mrs. Tracy Davidson-Celestine said the flight opens up new opportunities for the tourism industry in Tobago.

She said, "This is a significant move because it opens up the South American market and Brazil in particular. With strong connections in Argentina, Chile and other South American markets it makes it easier for the growing South American middle class to access Tobago."

INTERNATIONAL AGENCY FOUNDATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CHOOSES T&T AS HOST OF THEIR FIRST BOARD MEETING FOR 2015

12th February, 2015.

The Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) hosted its meeting of the Board of Directors at the Hilton Trinidad and Conference Centre from Saturday 7th to Sunday 8th February, 2015.

L–R: Mr. Keith Chin, CEO, TDC; Ms Sati Marimuthu, Director, Research and Planning, Ministry of Tourism; Mr. Jan Eriksen, President, Foundation for Environmental Education; Mr. Daniel Schaffer, CEO, Foundation for Environmental Education; Mrs. Joanna Moses-Wothke, CEO, Asclepius Green and National Coordinator for Blue Flag Trinidad and Tobago and Mrs. Tenisha Brown–Williams, Certification and Inspections Officer, TDC. **Photos courtesy TDC**

FEE is an international agency based in Copenhagen, Denmark and locations for the agency's Board meetings are usually chosen according to the interest in the development of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and of the FEE programmes such as Blue Flag.

The Trinidad and Tobago Tourism Development Company (TDC) together with Asclepius Green, a local non-governmental organisation (NGO) responsible for the co-ordination of the Blue Flag programme in Trinidad and Tobago has actively been advocating for the implementation of the initiative locally and the award was recently conferred upon Las Cuevas Beach Facility, currently making Trinidad and Tobago the only country in the Southern English speaking Caribbean to have a Blue Flag certified beach.

Commenting on the TDC's relationship with FEE, Mr. Keith Chin, TDC's Chief Executive Officer, said that "working together with FEE and Asclepius Green on the development and implementation of sustainable programmes in Trinidad and Tobago will result in significant improvements and growth in the tourism industry. The TDC recognises the value that the FEE programmes will contribute to the quality and standard of life in Trinidad and Tobago and will continue to push for the further implementation of these initiatives throughout Trinidad and Tobago."

The agency, originally the Foundation for Environmental Education in Europe (FEEE), was established in 1981, and has established partnerships with the United National World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

TURTLE NESTING SEASON 2015 LAUNCHES IN VALENCIA

In continued effort to champion the conservation of marine turtles, the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources (MEWR) joined with the Turtle Village Trust, Atlantic LNG and other corporate sponsors to officially launch the 2015 turtle nesting season on Monday at the Valencia Visitor Centre.

Above: Leatherback turtle laying eggs on the beach in Trinidad. **Photo courtesy TDC**

Minister of State in the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources, Ramona Ramdial, delivered the feature address at the launch during which she commended the Turtle Village Trust on their ongoing turtle conservation activities. Minister Ramdial stated that a total of $38, 604, 592 was allocated to organisations for sea turtle conservation activities over the past three years;

"The largest amount was actually granted to the Turtle Village Trust-$29, 711, 765.00 for its National Sea Turtle Conservation Project which started on March 5, 2013 and is scheduled to be completed on July 31, 2016. The Green Fund approved funding for the Turtle Village Trust has allowed the organisation's sea turtle conservation programme to expand from monitoring the four major nesting sites at - Grand Rivière, Matura, Fishing Pond and Turtle beach in Tobago, to incorporate 12 additional beaches in Trinidad and seven beaches in Tobago."

The programme now engages 23 different community groups that have been trained in conservation, data collection, and turtle tagging which generates scientific information that can guide the Government in shaping policies.

Minister Ramdial expressed her gratitude to corporate sponsors for their support and also reiterated the MEWR's commitment to ensuring sea turtles and by extension the nation's wildlife resources are protected;

"I urge you to protect our turtles and be very careful when you are engaged in your turtle watching tours. Please, let us not stumble across photos on social media of ignorant citizens destroying, eating, sitting on or harming our turtles in any way. This is an embarrassment on an international scale and defeats efforts by organisations like the Turtle Village Trust."

Dr Allan Bachan, executive director of the Turtle Village Trust, encouraged stakeholders to continue to work together to protect marine turtles, he also expressed his thanks to the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources, Atlantic LNG and other sponsors for their support over the years.

Vice-president of corporate operations at Atlantic LNG, Mr. C Toni Sirju-Ramnarine, highlighted the importance of more focused and informed research, education and outreach programmes for sea turtle conservation; "Atlantic has been a partner since 2008, through our support of the National Sea Turtle Tagging and Monitoring Programme, and we are extremely pleased with the expansion of conservation efforts in Trinidad and Tobago since then.

Pictured: Leatherback hatchling in Tobago. **Photo courtesy TDC**

"However, it is important for us to apply the lessons we have learnt to improve how we tackle the issues which threaten the sustainability of sea turtle populations."

At the end of the programme, the turtle nesting season was declared officially opened by Minister Ramdial.

http://www.trinidadexpress.com/featured-news/Turtle-nesting-season-2015-launches-in-Valencia-296007471.html

PUCK TO OPEN PIARCO RESTAURANT

31st March, 2015.

Renowned chef Wolfgang Puck will soon be launching a restaurant at Piarco International Airport. The Wolfgang Puck Bistro and Bar will be located on the upper floor of the duty free area at the airport and will be a contemporary casual restaurant with the guiding principle of "Simple is Delicious." The menu will provide quick bites or leisurely meal options, with opportunities for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Chef Puck will use only the finest ingredients to prepare food fresh-to-order. The beverage programme will features a full bar including non-alcoholic beverage.

Chef Puck is an Austrian-born chef who began his rise to stardom in 1981, when he authored his first cookbook and a year later opened his award-winning restaurant Spago in Beverly Hills. He has received several awards during his auspicious career, including an induction into the Culinary Hall of Fame in 2013. He has more than 80 branded operations throughout the US.

The Airports Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (AATT) said it was fortunate that Delaware North Corporation (DNC) and Superior Hospitality were able to persuade Chef Puck to bring his brand

Above: Chef Wolfgang Puck. **Photos Greg Gorman**

to Trinidad and Tobago. DNC is one of the largest master concessionaires in the aviation industry. In addition to the Wolfgang Puck Bistro, DNC will be bringing two additional businesses to the Piarco International Airport – The Piarco Gourmet and Trinidad Chic.

Piarco Gourmet is a specialty food shop focused on locally made and/or grown Trinidad and Tobago specialty products and related merchandise: rum cakes, chocolates, hot sauces and spices, coffees and teas, and related branded merchandise.

Trinidad Chic will sell locally made fashion, accessories, and jewelry and beauty products. Local artisans are contributing to the stores. The company has prided itself on identifying and introducing local talent to the world's stage at the Piarco International Airport. They are supporting the small businesses in the country by providing a world stage for them to display and sell their merchandise. The AATT said introduction of these ventures is the continuation of the its continued work in making itself "the premier provider of aviation driven business in the region."

http://www.guardian.co.tt/business/2015-03-31/puck-open-piarco-restaurant

T&T SIGNS TOURISM AGREEMENTS WITH CUBA AND BRAZIL

Trinidad and Tobago has signed a tourism cooperation agreement with Cuba and Brazil in an attempt to boost and diversify the tourism industry in all three countries.

Both agreements were signed March 31 by Tourism Minister Gerald Hadeed and the ministers of tourism for Cuba and Brazil.

The Ministry of Tourism said in a news release this country stands to benefit from the agreements in a number of areas. These areas include participation in training programmes and student exchanges; development of multi-destination tourism packages; exchange of research professionals and specialists to improve this country's tourism product; joint venture arrangements and exchange of professionals in areas of cultural and natural heritage preservation.

"Minister Hadeed explained that 'the signing of this agreement is an indication of the maturity of the relationship between the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and that of Cuba' and promised to 'work closely with my fellow minister of tourism in Cuba, the Honourable Manuel Marrero Cruz, on implementing this very important and comprehensive Tourism Cooperation Agreement,'" the release stated.

It further added that bilateral relations between Cuba and Trinidad and Tobago have blossomed since the opening of embassies in the capitals of both countries, and the signing of several cooperation agreements in areas such as trade, sport, medicine and the waiver of visas.

"This agreement comes at an opportune moment in Cuba's history with the introduction of more liberal incentives for foreign investors and the announcement of the restoration of diplomatic relations in December 2014 between Cuba and the USA, which could lead to full normalisation in their relationship."f overhangs and holes where you can spot Caribbean spiny lobsters, arrowhead crabs, cleaner shrimp, moray eels and even the occasional octopus. Large shoals of grunts, creole wrasse and snapper often school here in search of food. On the sandy bottom of the reef look out for southern stingrays.

Lover's Bay, Charlotteville: Access to the site is only by boat (which you can hire from the village) or by stand-up paddle board, which gives you the chance to take in the stunning scenery. For details, contact Stand-Up Paddle Tobago at Radical Sports at Pigeon Point or visit www.standuppaddletobago.com. This secluded bay is ideal for beginner snorkellers, and attracts a rich variety of marine life. Yellow and blue coloured queen angelfish, jeuvenille spotlight parrotfish, barred hamlets and foureye butterfly fish can be spotted among the coral. You may be lucky enough to glimpse a small hawksbill turtle.

Angel Reef: Located at Speyside, Angel Reef is located just below Ian Fleming's former holiday home at Goat Island. The site boasts healthy sponges and corals and attracts large shoals of creole wrasse, grunts, snappers and chromis. The reef has many cleaning stations along it. Look for sharpnose gobies and the scarlet cleaning shrimps as they tend to Tobago's fishlife. While snorkelling, look out into the blue, where there is a chance to spot larger pelagics like barracuda, groupers and nurse sharks. The graceful manta ray can also be glimpsed here, flying through the water. The reef can be accessed by glass bottom boat from the Blue Waters Inn. Trips are usually twice a day.

For the latest offers and deals or to plan or book your holiday go to the Tobago Hotel and Tourism Association's website at www.tobagohoteltourism.com or phone: 868 639 9543.

"Together, Getting Tobago Tourism Right!"

TRINIDAD&TOBAGO CARNIVAL 2015 PICTORIAL

Pictured: 1) Senior King of Carnival 2015 - Mr. Roland St. George in his winning costume *Ahtwajé*. **Photo - loopTT.com**; **2)** Senior Queen of Carnival 2015 - Ms. Stephanie Kanhai in her costume, *The Sweet Waters Of Africa*. **Photo - loopTT.com; 3)** Front line carnival costumes; **4)** Traditional Dame Lorraine costumes**; 5)** Traditional Sailor mas costumes; **6- 7)** Masqueraders enjoying themselves in the Socadrome; **8)** Miss Universe 1998 Ms. Wendy Fitzwilliam from the band 'Dominion of the Sun' by Harts performs in the Queen's Park Savanah. **Photos - National Carnival Bands Association T&T (NCBA)**

TRINIDAD&TOBAGO CARNIVAL 2015 RESULTS

NATIONAL CALYPSO MONARCH 2015

1. Roderick "Chucky" Gordon - *The Rose/I Believe*
2. Devon Seale - *My Humble Plea/Soul Judges*
3. Karene Asche - *Bridge The Gap/Every Knee Shall Bow*
4. Heather Mac Intosh - *Ah Gone/An Ode For 4*

Top right: Joseph "Lingo" Vautor-La Placeliere winner of Kaisorama Extempo finals 2015 - **Photo - www.guardian.co.tt**

To watch a video clip of Lingo and Byron B in the final round of Kaisorama 2015 visit:
https://youtu.be/xUdZTzXE-eo?t=9m13s

PLAY WHE INTERNATIONAL POWER SOCA MONARCH 2015

1. Machel Montano - *Like Ah Boss*
2. Iwer "King" George - *Play De People Mas*
3. Granny - *Go Granny*
4. Shurwayne Winchester - *Carry On*

DIGECEL INTERNATIONAL GROOVY SOCA MONARCH 2015

1. Olatunji Yearwood - *Ola*
2. Farmer Nappy - *My House*
3. Ricardo Drue - *Vagabond*
4. Destra Garcia - *Lucy*

Top left: Roderick "Chucky" Gordon singing "The Rose" in Dimache Gras at the Queen's Park Savannah in Port of Spain. **Photo - Stephen Doobay.**

Middle: Ife Alleyne, winner of the 2014 National Calypso Queen, performing her winning calypso, *Child of Liberty* at the National Women's Action Committee National Calypso Queen competition.

At Left: Olatunji Yearwood performing 'Ola' at Soca Monarch Finals. **Photo - Micheal Bruce Digital Imaging: Ryan Diaz.**

Bottom: Rikki Jai (left) and Ravi B performs for the crowd during the traditional Chutney segment from Chutney Soca Monarch finals held at Skinner Park, San Fernando. **Photo - Dexter Philip/ Trinidad Express Newspaper**

LOTTO PLUS INTERNATIONAL CHUTNEY SOCA MONARCH 2015

1. Ravi B and Rikki Jai - *CSM 20*
2. Kris "KI" Persad - *No Gyal Again*
3. Nishard M - *Mischief Maker*
4. Crazy - *Respect the Elder*

TRADITIONAL CHUTNEY

1. Ravi B and Rikki Jai - *Chalo Awo Radha*
2. Rooplal G - *Lage Re*
3. Drupatee Ramgoonai - *Dholakawa*
4. Rasika Dindial - *Doo Doo Darling*

TRINIDAD&TOBAGO CARNIVAL 2015 RESULTS

BAND OF THE YEAR (SENIORS) 2015

1. Trinidad All Stars Steel Orchestra - *Ship Ahoy at a French Festival*
2. Trinidad Revellers Company Limited - *The Jamette Carnival*
3. Ronnie and Caro The Mas Band - *Ah Come Back Home*

BAND OF THE YEAR (JUNIOR) 2015

1. Rosalind Gabriel Carnival Productions Limited - *Play One For Cito*
2. Zebapique Productions - *When I Say... You Say*
3. Carnival Babies TT - *On Stage*

Top: A cross section of Trinidad All Stars Steel Orchestra 2015 presentation on south quay in Port of Spain. **Photo - Trinidad All Stars Steel Orchestra.**
Middle: Ms. Natalia D'Abreau parades in her Junior Carnival Queen costume '*A Brazilian Showcase'* for Carnival Babies TT mas band. **Photo - Carnival Babies TT.**
Bottom right: Pan Elders Steelband playing in the semi finals of the National Panorama competition. **Photo - NCC.**
Bottom left: A masquerader celebrates in the town of Scarborough, Tobago on Carnival Tuesday. **Photo - THA.gov.tt**

PANORAMA 2015

LARGE BAND:

1. All Stars
2. Phase 2
3. Exodus
4. Silver Stars
5. Renegades
6. Tropical Angel Harps

People's Choice Large Band Category - Exodus

MEDIUM BAND

1. Pan Elders 282
2. Bucconeers 277
3. Steel Xplosion 276
4. Scherzando 275
5. Katzenjammers 274
6. Sound Specialist 274

People's Choice Award Medium Band Category - Joylanders.

TOBAGO

BAND OF THE YEAR (SENIORS) 2015

1. Skandalus - *Clash of the Giants*
2. Stoute Next Generation - *Mas Legends.*
3. Eldez and Associates - *African Diaspora*

BAND OF THE YEAR (JUNIOR) 2015

1. L M and Associates - *Birthing of the Scarlet Ibis*
2. Zante Dance Company Presentation - *Birds of a Feather Flock Together*
3. World People - *Wonders of Rainbow*

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO RECEIVES AWARD FOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM PROMOTION AT ITB 2015

Trinidad and Tobago represented by a delegation of senior government officials from the Trinidad and Tobago Tourism Development Company (TDC) and the Tobago House of Assembly (THA), Division of Tourism and Transportation accompanied by stakeholders kicked off day one of the ITB Berlin Convention with an award presented by DERPART Travel Services for Sustainable Destination Promotion on the German Market.

Derpart is one of the leading travel agency networks in Germany with more than 450 franchise travel agencies with total revenue of 1.5 billion EURO and ranks among Germany's 500 largest companies. Trinidad and Tobago was given special recognition for its success in building an excellent reputation as a reliable and trustful partner of the German travel industry through its stable marketing efforts and unchanged presence in the German market.

The destination was also commended for actively responding to the rapidly changing demands of travel consumers and the latest booking trends in destination marketing.

Commenting shortly after accepting the award from Derpart, Keith Chin, Chief Executive Officer, Tourism Development Company said, "I am indeed honoured to accept this award on behalf of Trinidad and Tobago. This recognition by Depart is a testament to our continued commitment to the advancement of the tourism product in Trinidad and Tobago."

He further added, "As a destination we continue to position ourselves as a premier destination of choice and participation at shows such as ITB allows us to sell our product offering in a market that despite occasional shocks have shown virtually uninterrupted growth with travel continuing to be a mega trend with positive forecasts for every major economic zone."

Germany continues to be a key source market for the destination, in particular the sister isle of Tobago. For 2015, the german economy is Europe's biggest economy and Germans have an increased interest in discovering new destinations or undertaking new types of holiday having the financial security and available time to travel. In 2013 this market accounted for a total spend of $85.9 billion abroad.

Closing off the day in true Trinbagonian style, Trinidad and Tobago hosted a rum and chocolate tasting session for exhibitors and visitors to the convention. The session was led by former Miss World 1986 Giselle La Ronde- West who provided commentary on Angostura's signature 1919 rum while ace pannist Johann Chuckaree brought the house down with his energetic performance on the steelpan.

ITB is the world's leading travel show and is scheduled to run over a five day period from March 4th - 8th, 2015. Trinidad and Tobago joins over 180 countries, 10,000 exhibitors, 50,000 private visitors and 110,000 trade visitors at the show, an opportunity which offers the destination an ideal platform for networking with representatives from tour operators, online booking agents, hotels and many other service providers.

For more information on ITB 2015 and Trinidad and Tobago's participation please contact the TDC's Corporate Communications Department at mvictor@tdc.co.tt or info@ tdc.co.tt

T&T SHINES AT 56TH CFAB INTERNATIONAL SPRING FAIR AND FOOD FESTIVAL

On Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th May, the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission participated in 56th edition of the International Spring Fair 2015, which was held at Kensington Town Hall, London.

The Children and Families Across Borders (CFAB) International Spring Fair is an annual event, organised by the CFAB charity invited diplomatic missions in London from over 100 countries to exhibit and sell typical products of their countries. The Royal Patron of CFAB, HRH Princess Alexandra officially opened the fair and visited all the stands.

CFAB is an international child protection and family welfare UK-based charity is a non-governmental organisation which have for the past 60 years been assisting people who have been separated from family members as a consequence of divorce, migration, seeking asylum, trafficking and

Pictured: a cross section of the sweets on sale in the T&T Stand

abduction, as well as other vulnerable individuals.

In addition to global cuisine and craft stalls visitors were treated to live world entertainment and all day cocktail bars making the International Spring Fair one of the London's largest charity Fair.

This year, the Trinidad and Tobago stand sold paw paw (papaya) balls, tamarind balls, fudge, kurma from Ulin's Kitchen, Scarborough Tobago Bene Sticks from The Essense of Hands, Black Rock Tobago Guava, Pommecythere jams, Lip balm and Shower gel from Anthea's Treasure Trove, packs of assorted sweets from K.C. Confectionery Limited, Multipurpose Bay Leaf Essence and Bay Leaf Powder from Flava Me Right, Farine from We Local Delight, 5 Year Old Rum from Angostura and rum punch. The Trinidad and Tobago stand, manned by Trinidad and Tobago High Commission staff and volunteers, generated a lot of interest and proved to be one of the busiest. All proceeds were donated to the CFAB Registered Charity.

For further information on CFAB please visit: www.cfab.org.uk

Pictured: (1) (L-R) Mrs. Michelle Charles, Mrs. Beverley Awonaya and Ms. Claudia Cupid in the T&T Stand; **(2)** A young visitor intrigued by the mini pan; **(3)** Acting High Commissioner Mr. Tedwin Herbert (middle) with Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Councillor Robert Freeman and his wife Mrs. Freeman; **(4)** Mrs. Keisha Rochford-Herbert, Acting High Commissioner Mr. Tedwin Herbert, Mrs. Rochford and panist. **Photos: Beverley Awonaya**

LUTON INTERNATIONAL CARNIVAL 2015 – A SPECTACULAR SIGHT

May 24th , 2014

Even though the rain decided to pour a little on carnival this year, it did not dampen the mood as thousands still poured onto the streets of Luton to enjoy an incredible day of free family entertainment at Luton International Carnival.

After months of hard work and preparation, the town burst into life and amazing colour as carnival atmosphere swept over everyone involved.

The sound sites across the site gave people plenty to dance to, with a host of local DJs spinning plenty to get people moving to the grooves.

Many visiting Wardown Park queued to grab a bite to eat, with food from all around the world, the park was home to delicious aromas! Never has it been so easy for people to take a culinary tour of the world's best food.

Once again, the highlight of the entire day was the parade leaving Wardown Park at 1.30pm. Nearly 1,000 people made up the parade bringing to life the unique and incredible costumes all intricately made. The theme of "let your dreams take flight" were featured in everything from Harminder the cycle powered elephant to the various wonders of the king and queen costumes on show. This year's epic costumes, dance and live music demonstrated how designers, makers, musicians and dancers work together to push the boundaries of artistic excellence and performance skills.

Above and Below: Masqueraders parade on carnival route Luton to St. George's Square. **Photos: https://www.facebook.com/UKCentreforCarnivalArts**

Each group stopped at the Carnival Stage in St George's Square to give their polished performances to the carnival judges and onlookers, with many of their rhythmic routines wowing the watching crowd.

Clary Salandy, Artistic Director at the UK Centre for Carnival Arts, said: "Seeing the parade today was an incredible experience, knowing how much hard work goes into the artistic production for each and every detail of the costumes and choreographed routines. I was amazed at many of the costumes and by the tremendous effort made by everyone to bring the spirit of carnival to life. Most of all, I am so impressed with the warmth and togetherness displayed by all of the different communities. It is a quality of which we should all be proud.

Luton International Carnival has a bright future. We have some hugely talented artists involved already but we want more! Next year is a very important year as Luton Carnival celebrates its 40th anniversary, come and get involved! Design a costume, make it or take part. The Carnival is a big part of the town and we want all of our communities to get involved."

More than 30 groups took part in this year's carnival parade, including groups and schools from Luton and others from national carnival arts organizations as well as those visiting groups from Europe.

Hopeton Walker, Chairman of the board for the UK Centre for Carnival Arts, said: "This year's carnival featured a really good mix of local groups and new national carnival acts which have never been seen here in Luton before. Carnival really is for everyone!

Carnival day is a day where people from all backgrounds come together and enjoy themselves. Seeing carnival arts putting smiles on everybody's faces today was very special, and I would like to thank everybody who put in so much work to make the day so amazing."

With absolutely no arrests made, credit goes to the communities of Luton, proving such diverse cultures can come together for a safe, family event; a precedent that we are proud to retain.

Don't get too comfortable, next year's carnival preparations are already underway; the big 4-0 will bring more colour, more dance, more sounds, more, more, more!

To get involved in carnival, contact the UK Centre for Carnival Arts: info@carnivalarts.org.uk

Edited from http://www.carnivalarts.org.uk/Carnivals/Carnivalday.aspx

Above: Masquerader parades on carnival route Luton. **At Right:** A view of the stage in St. George's Square in Luton. **Photos: https://www.facebook.com/UKCentreforCarnivalArts**

BUNJI & FAY ANN PERFORMS AT LEGENDARY GLASTONBURY FESTIVAL

Soca star Bunji Garlin was called upon to headline one of the key dance stages at the legendary Glastonbury Festival in England.

The festival, which has been active for over 40 years and has been voted the world's number one event by music magazines, boasts a number of key arenas which showcase star talent. This year's headline acts include Kanye West, Foo Fighters, Pharrell Williams and The Who and attracts in excess of 185,000 patrons.

Bunji lined up alongside his wife, Fay Ann Lyons and acclaimed production outfit Jus Now, who have collaborated with Bunji on a number of tracks including "Truck On The Road" and "Tun Up".

The Trinidad takeover took place on the Gully Stage, which was part of the Silver Hayes area of the festival on Friday 26th June.

In the press release before his performance Garlin said "Playing in Glastonbury will be a special moment for me not only as I get to present the culture of Trinidad and Tobago from a certain and maybe different perspective but also because I don't get to do it alone as in most cases in occasions like these with artistes from Trinidad and Tobago".

"This time I am equalised by the dynamic feminine version of musical aggression in the body of Fay- Ann Lyons and my collaborative family Jus now responsible for "Truck on D Road" and "Tun Up" that received marvellous mainstream play in the UK. We look forward to simply smashing the stage."

Bunji's popularity in the UK has been at an all time high, with his sold out London show last year as well as record levels of radio play across the board with a number of hit singles from his album "Differentology". This has allowed him to bring the message of the music to a wide and varied crowd.

Pictured: Bunji Garlin and Fay Ann Lyons. **Photos: www.facebook.com/Bunji.Asylum**

"Since my first appearance on stage in the UK in 1999 I felt connected to the audience and we also have lots of my friends from back in Trinidad who live out here so we always always always feel welcomed and received as family," Bunji added.

In addition to the Glastonbury show Bunji and Fay Ann also be headlined their own show at The Coronet in London on Saturday June 20th entitled "The Face-Off".

Edited from http://looptt.com/2015/05/23/bunji-fay-ann-perform-legendary-glastonbury-festival/

DEVELOPING COSTUME ARTISTRY AND COSTUME DESIGN SKILLS

Pictured: Carnival artists from Leeds were all smiles as they joined Leeds Carnival Founder Arthur France MBE (Back row 3rd left) and Mahogany's Clary Salandy MBE (in costume) at the ACE funded LWIC Mas Masterclass event.
Photos:

June 14th 2015

With an ongoing commitment to developing costume artistry and costume design skills, Leeds West Indian Carnival (LWIC) recently paid a visit to award winning Mahogany Carnival Arts mas camp in London.

As part of the Mas Masterclass series funded by Arts Council England (ACE), organisers of Europe's longest running Caribbean carnival parade facilitated the day with acclaimed Mahogany Artistic Director Clary Salandy MBE, who shared techniques, skills and expertise with the enthusiastic group of established and emerging costume designers and practitioners.

LWIC Chair and Founder Arthur France MBE said, "Leeds West Indian Carnival is delighted to be able to expose designers to the international expertise and creative vision of phenomenal artists like Ms Salandy. We are committed to securing a legacy for Caribbean carnival arts in the UK. The sector is operating against a backdrop of public funding cuts, under developed skills, resources and capacity. If Carnival in the UK is to continue to deliver the spectacle, heritage and culture of mas, we must do all we can to nurture our talents and to encourage carnival artists so that we can secure a long lasting legacy for Carnival".

Speaking of her experience, emerging designer Lisa Fell who joined fellow artists in the 400 mile round trip said "It was brilliant. I learned so much today that I am now inspired to return to Leeds and re-think my upcoming designs!"

Ms Salandy whose work has featured in major global events including the Olympic Games commented, "It was a pleasure to work together with Arthur and the Leeds West Indian Carnival team. It is so important that we come together to learn from each other, to share skills and to protect the future and heritage of Mas."

The Leeds visitors were delighted to be met at the North London Mahogany headquarters by Ms Salandy sporting an animated creation depicting a giraffe with enchanting life like movement in order to demonstrate some of the mechanics and techniques involved in costume design.

Mr. France added, "This was a great opportunity to connect with old friends and to new learn skills – even for those like myself who have been devoted to carnival for decades. That's the great thing about the craft of Carnival - we can all learn something new regardless of our age or experience".

The Mas Masterclass series will provide costume development opportunities for designers over the next two years.

MOHAGANY CARNIVAL DESIGNS

Mahogany Carnival Designs has been participating in Notting Hill Carnival since 1998. The group was created by designer, Clary Salandy and structural engineer Michael Ramdeen to develop techniques of costume design and construction and to heighten the understanding of Carnival and Carnival Arts. Their inspiration originates from involvement in the Trinidad and Tobago Carnival. They have created costumes for prestigious events such as the London 2012 Olympics Opening Ceremony and The Golden Jubilee.

Mahogany Carnival Design
28 High Street, Harlesden,
London, NW10 4LX
Tel: (+44) 020 89614446
Email: costumes@mahoganycarnival.com
Web: www.mahoganycarnival.com

CULTURE & TOURISM

TOURISM BI-ANNUAL UPDATES:

Pictured: Blue Waters Inn Hotel. **Photos: www.bluewatersinn.com**

Blue Waters Inn Hotel did extensive upgrade to its 38 room facility including remodelling its rooms and adding in a new swimming pool. This Hotel has been upgraded to a four star hotel.

Batteaux Bay, Speyside, Tobago
Tel: (868) 660 4341 / (868) 660 2583
Email: reservations@bluewatersinn.com
Website: www.bluewatersinn.com

Chic is a small 38 room boutique hotel and conference centre and it also did extensive upgrades to all of its rooms and ancillary areas.

16-17 Mt Pleasant Boulevard, Bon Accord, Tobago W.I.
Tel: (868) 631 8961
Email: reservations@chictobago.com

Speyside Inn upgraded its 18 room facility to a minimum three star standard.

189-193, Windward Road,
Speyside, Tobago
Tel: (868) 660-4852
Email: nabuccoresort@speysideinn.com
Website: www.speysideinn.com

Pictured: The Pigeon Point Pavilion. **Photos: http://tobago-wedding-venues.blogspot.co.uk**

Airport
Upgrade work has started on the ANR Robinson International Airport which would see the addition of a Business Class Lounge as well as significant improvement to the aesthetics of the airport.

Romance
The destination has been concentrating on weddings and romance and in this context the Pigeon Point Pavilion has been completed. This allows for beach weddings with a 6,000 square feet pavilion that can be used for the reception. All on the iconic Pigeon Point Beach.

However the Wedding Hut as we call it can also be used for other events including meetings.

Upcoming developments

Canopy tour: This will be a major addition to the product offered by the island. It is for adventure seekers and those interested in nature and eco tourism. The tour will see people having to ability to use 13 traverse lines to zip through the Western Hemisphere's oldest protected rainforest. It will have 14 platforms including two dedicated to bird watching and photography. All this while doing nothing to negatively impact the rainforest, its fauna, flora and wild life.

THE MIGHTY SPARROW TO RECEIVE OBE

Calypsonian and Living legend Dr. Slinger Francisco, better known as the Mighty Sparrow, has been conferred with the Order of the British Empire, as part of the Birthday Honours List of Queen Elizabeth II.

The 79-year-old legendary calypsonian was born in Grenada and spent much of his life in Trinidad and Tobago. Citizens from the 15 Commonwealth realms can be nominated for the birthday honours list.

The list consists of knights and dames, appointments to the Order of the British Empire and gallantry awards to servicemen and women, and civilians.

An appointment to the Order of the British Empire recognises prominent national or regional figures making distinguished or notable contributions in their own specific areas of activity. Francisco's citation is for services to culture.

For the full list of recipients of crown dependencies and Commonwealth honours please visit: http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/jun/12/queens-birthday-honours-list-2015-commonwealth?CMP=share_btn_fb

FEATURE

Pictured: Terence "Terry" Noel M.B.E.
Photo: www.melodiansuk.co.uk

THE MISSION CONGRATULATES MBE HONOUREE TERRY NOEL & OBE HONOUREE WINSTON MCDOWELL

On March 6th, 2015, Trinbagonian national Mr. Terence "Terry" Noel was made a Member of the British Empire in the New Year Honours List 2015, one of the highest honours in Britian. Mr. Noel was honoured for his services to Music.

The MBE was presented to him by Her Majesty The Queen Elizabeth II at Windsor Castle on Friday 6th March. Mr. Noel was accompanied by his wife and daughters to this memorable event. Mr. Noel and the Queen had a brief conversation and discussed the fact that the Melodians had played for the Queen at her Diamond Jubilee in 2012 as well as three garden parties at Buckingham Palace and eight consecutive Commonwealth day Services in Westminster Abbey.

Mr. Noel said after the event "It was a fantastic and memorable day. It was nice to know the Queen remembered the Melodians and enjoyed their playing."

Mr. Noel formed the Melodians in October 1987 and has been the Leader to present day. The Melodians is a 'not for profit' organisation and became a registered charity in 1994. The Melodians currently has 34 members with ages ranging from 11 to over 70.

The achievements of the Melodians in the past 27 years have been numerous and diverse. The versatility of the orchestra's repertoire has been recognised and it has received two Performing Rights Society Enterprise Awards, a Royal Anniversary Challenge Award and a BT Innovation AwardThe 2015 New Year Honours also recognised the achievements of wide range of people throughout health and social care community. People from the health and care community make up 7% of all honours.

Mr. Winston Anthony McDowell, a bank staff nurse at Broadmoor Hospital in West London Mental Health NHS Trust was awarded an Officers of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to Mental Health which he collected from HM the Queen

Mr. Noel and Mr. McDowell are sterling examples of the invaluable contribution members of the Trinidad and Tobago Diaspora have made to the United Kingdom. Our Mission extends its sincere congratulations. We applaud them both and look forward to receiving more great news about our nationals' myriad achievements.

TRINIBAGONIAN MIDWIFE ARONA AHMED HELP DELIVER PRINCESS CHARLOTTE

On May 2nd, 2015, Her Royal Highness Princess Charlotte of Cambridge, the second child of Prince William and his wife Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge, was delivered by a medical team which included Trinidad-born midwife Arona Ahmed.

The baby girl was delivered at St Mary's hospital in West London on Saturday.

Ahmed, who migrated to London at age 17 to pursue a career in nursing, had also assisted in the birth of Prince George two years ago.

Ahmed, a mother of two, spent her early years in Point D'or La Brea. She is the second of six children born to Kenneth and Ena Mohammed. Her father is the evangelist of the Point Fortin Church of Christ. Her parents were overjoyed by their daughter's achievements yesterday.

Ena Mohammed said, "You know, she was sworn to secrecy. She couldn't tell us

what was happening. She didn't even tell us she was part of the delivery team. But we were not surprised because she was there for the first baby, so we had an idea she was there for this one too."

Mohammed said her daughter was invited to meet Prince Williams and his wife, Kate, on several occasions. And she was also greeted by Queen Elizabeth II.

"It is really an honour. We are so proud of her. But she don't like publicity. She is really a simple person. We had to sign a confidentiality agreement, so she can't discuss it. My daughter loved nursing Mohammed said her daughter enjoyed caring for others. "She is a loving person. This is what she always wanted to do. She is caring and has a good heart. I am very proud of her. We are very close," she said.

Ahmed visited her parents last December. "She told us about her visits with the Royal family. She is a simple woman. She don't like to talk much about it. But it is definitely the highlight of her career."

Ahmed and her boss Jacqui Dunklet-Bent, Professor of midwifery at Imperial College, Healthcare NHS trust, were featured prominently in the baby's delivery.

Prince William and his wife introduced the baby princess to the world Saturday evening, just 12 hours after Kate checked into the London hospital to give birth. The baby weighed in at 3.7 kilogrammes.

The couple had kept the world guessing about the name until after both sets of grandparents got a chance to visit Kensington Palace on Sunday to meet their granddaughter.

The princess is the second child of Prince William and his wife Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge.

Charlotte, the feminine form of Charles, appears to be a nod to the new-born's grandfather, Prince Charles. The middle names honour Queen Elizabeth II, the infant's 89-year-old great-grandmother, and the late Princess Diana, William's mother.

The princess is fourth in line to the throne after Charles, William and her older brother Prince George.

Edited from http://www.trinidadexpress.com/news/Heres-the-Trini-nurse-who-helped-deliver-the-royal-princess-302433481.html

TO TEKKA FOR INGREDIENTS

written by **MS. EUNICE QUEK**

Above: Chef Hasan Defour at Lime House displays some of his flavourful dishes. **Photo: Dios Vincoy Jr./ The Straits Times**

Trinibagonian chef Hasan Defour does not have to go far to source ingredients for his restaurants in Singapore.

In fact, he can find all that he needs in Singapore for the Caribbean dishes served at Lime House in Jiak Chuan Road and its sister outlet Lime Deli in Telok Ayer.

He says: "People always ask us how much we import from back home. But everything can be found here. It's just that in Singapore, the ingredients have different names."

The London-based Defour, who runs Caribbean catering company Defour Catering, returns every few months to check on the restaurants and introduce new dishes.

He says that what is called a Kerala banana back home is called a plantain here. Also, the roselle plant is known as Jamaican sorrel.

Life! joins the 37-year-old chef, who was born in Trinidad and Tobago, on a trip to Tekka Market in Little India, one of his favourite places to look for ingredients.

As he walks through the market, he picks up various vegetables and fruits, and asks the shop owners about those unfamiliar to him.

Proving his point about the ingredient name game, he picks up a starfruit and says: "This fruit, we call it five finger back home. You see, it's just names, really."

Upon seeing tapioca, he makes a note to use it for side dishes.

Next, he picks up lemongrass and says that it is not used for cooking back home. Instead, it is used to make tea and drunk as medicine.

He chances upon dried ikan kurau (Malay for threadfin) and buys a packet, as he is hoping to use it as an alternative to salt cod.

But while he has had to substitute certain ingredients here and admits that sweet potatoes in the Caribbean islands have "more intense" flavours, he insists that the Caribbean taste here is not compromised.

He says: "The food doesn't taste different because the process of cooking is Caribbean. Our food is heavily marinated. Jerk chicken is marinated overnight. It is no less flavoursome."

Thyme and coriander, he says, are key ingredients for jerk seasoning, which he also calls "green seasoning" and says that

each island has its own version.

He also has a roasted blend of fenugreek, mustard seed, caraway, cumin, chilli and turmeric, which he recommends for rubbing on meats.

Waxing lyrical about the diverse cultures of the Caribbean islands, with their French, Spanish, Indian and Portuguese influences, the chef, who is also a cooking show host, makes sure he showcases that diversity at Lime Deli.

Offerings include curry goat, considered a Trinidadian and Jamaican dish; and Doubles, a common street food from his hometown. It is a fried bread sandwich filled with spicy chickpeas and mango chutney and reflects Indian influences on the islands.

Spicy food is certainly not an issue for him, as he dismisses the local chilli padi as a walk in the park for him.

Naming spicy peppers, he says confidently: "A scotch bonnet will blow off the top of your head. What's hotter? A scorpion pepper. I can eat that too. No problem."

The chef, whose dreadlocks are tied into a bun, attracts attention in the market. Curious stall owners whispers to Life!: "Is his hair real?" and "How does he wash it?"

A small group of Indian stall owners forms a mini audience as Life! speaks to him in the market. At the end, he releases his bun of hair to a chorus of oohs and aahs.

"I'm used to it," he says with much amusement. "And there is no secret to how I wash my hair. Soap and water, like everyone else."

Editied from http://www.straitstimes.com/lifestyle/food-wine/story/chef-hasan-defour-shows-how-find-ingredients-caribbean-dishes-tekka-market

SUMMARY OF QUARTERLY NATIONALS MEETING IN APRIL

Pictured: Mr. Tedwin Herbert, Acting High Commissioner responding to questions from to the natoinals.

A new style of engagement with nationals was launched at our revamped Nationals Meeting held at the High Commission on April 29th, 2015. Nationals were introduced to the theme and initiatives for the upcoming Diaspora Engagement Month: ***Charity Begins at Home***. Attendees worked in groups to discuss two topics of great relevance to expatriates: the Airport Duty Tax (APD) and Caribbean Airlines. It is hoped that quarterly nationals meetings would provide a conduit for nationals to address issues of pertinence to the Diaspora, to communicate with each other and reach consensus on the most appropriate means of making a legacy contribution to the nation of Trinidad and Tobago.

Issues raised by the groups were as follows:

Airport Duty Tax

While expatriate nationals are aware of the rising cost of fares, due in large part to taxation, they are unfamiliar with the details of the Airport Duty Tax and the attendant issues.

Officers of the High Commission advised nationals of the concerns surrounding this tax by the UK Government and the campaigns led by airlines, tourism bodies and the airline industry to have the tax bandings amended, the tax scrapped, or fees applied more fairly

Nationals were also advised that this campaign has had some success with the:

Announcement at the 2014 Autumn Statement that APD on children's tickets would be scrapped by April 2015 for under 12s and by 2016 by those under 16 and the

Announcement at the 2014 Budget that APD will be reformed, with the removal of bands C and D, from April 2015 onwards.

The Way Forward:

Efforts continue to be made to have the tax repealed or further reductions made. Nationals should make every attempt to keep up to date with developments, write to their local MP for action and actively participate in the various campaigns to address this issue

Caribbean Airlines

i. Fares remain too high

ii. The fleet is of a substandard quality in comparison to competing airlines and negatively impacts on the quality of experience of passengers

iii. Timekeeping remains an issue

iv. Recent baggage allowance changes make BA a better option

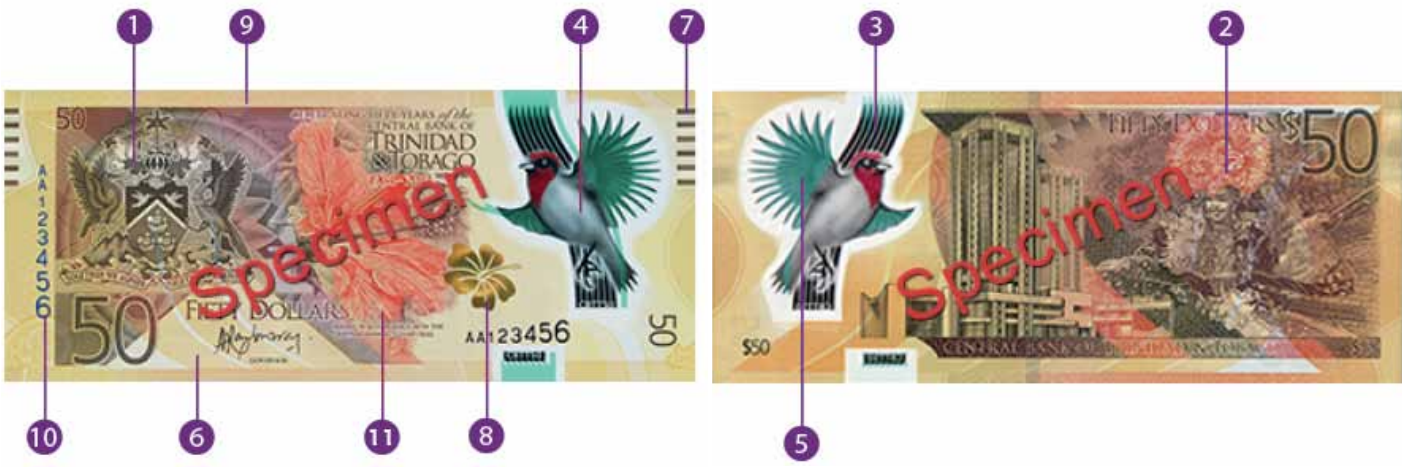
Officers of the High Commission advised nationals of the recent reversion of Caribbean Airlines to its 2 baggage policy on flights to the UK

The Way Forward:

The High Commission has given feedback to Caribbean Airlines on the issues raised and their Communications Manager has committed to holding a meeting with Nationals in the near future to address their concerns

FEATURE

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO NEW POLYMER $50



SOME KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CURRENCY NOTES ARE LISTED BELOW:

1. Trinidad and Tobago Coat of Arms - This national symbol is larger than in previous notes and it is positioned at the left side of the front of the note to prevent it from being creased when the note is folded.
2. Carnival image - Children's carnival masquerader
3. Transparent window - This clear window can be seen around the image of a Red-capped Cardinal bird. It is visible on both sides of the note.
4. Print mark - This features an image of the Red-capped Cardinal bird.
5. Green/blue iridescent feature - The wings of the Red-capped Cardinal change colour from green to blue as the note is tilted.
6. Microtext panel - The number "50" is printed here.
7. Blind emboss over bleed-off denomination bars - Raised tactile bars at the side of the note are easy to feel and are helpful to visually impaired people.
8. Spark® Orbital™- This small gold-green iridescent hibiscus flower changes colour as you move the note around. There is also a bright ring around the centre of the flower that moves as the note is tilted.
9. Gemini™ feature - This is visible only under black or UV light.
10. Blue IR readable number serial number - This feature is not visible to the human eye.
11. Machine-readable block of text reading "50" - There are two of these text blocks on the $50 note

Pictured: The front and reverse of the $50 banknote. **At right:** carnival image used on th reverse of the banknote. **Photos: Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago**

written by **CENTRAL BANK OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago is proud to release into circulation a visually stunning redesigned $50 banknote that depicts the natural beauty and vibrant energy of Trinidad and Tobago, is vividly colourful and made of polymer, the material of the future for money. We are the first Central Bank in the Caribbean and the fifth in the Western Hemisphere to issue polymer notes.

Your new $50 banknote is gold in colour. This not only makes it very distinctive and easy to recognise, but also makes it a fitting tribute to mark the Bank's Golden Anniversary.

Your $50 banknote retains the familiar national symbol of the Coat of Arms, which is now 30 percent larger and given pride of place to the top left of the front of the note, consistent with cutting edge practices in international bank note design.

Your $50 banknote integrates an artistic rendering of a red hibiscus flower and a striking image of the Red-capped Cardinal bird in flight against a clear, transparent window. A young, female masquerader in an award-winning Carnival costume captures the energy of our people.

While its looks are impressive and will certainly get your attention, the most exciting feature of your new $50 polymer banknote is its feel. Polymer is stronger, cleaner and longer-lasting than cotton money. Above all, your new polymer $50 has many security features, making it very difficult or in some cases virtually impossible to counterfeit.

Your new $50 banknote is now available over the counter in banks. The polymer $50 will be available through ATMs on a phased basis across the banks, starting in June 2015. Your new $50 is not a special edition note. It is meant to be used for all your purchases, like you would all other money.

What is polymer?

Polymer is a kind of thin, flexible plastic film that's made from polypropylene. It has many features that are desirable in the production of money. It is durable and repels dirt. It allows for the printing of several layers of ink and the creation of many features that enhance security, for example, holograms and transparent areas or "windows"

Brief history of polymer notes

Costa Rica, Haiti and the Isle of Man were early adopters of trial polymer notes in the 1980s, but the first country to bring these notes into mass circulation was Australia. The modern polymer banknote was developed by the Reserve Bank of Australia, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation and the University of Melbourne and issued in 1988, Australia's 200th anniversary. In 1996, Australia switched completely to polymer notes.

Trinidad and Tobago joins over 20 countries that already use polymer notes. These include Brazil, Chile, Fiji, Indonesia, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal, People's Republic of China, Thailand and Zambia, the first country in Africa to do so.

So far seven countries have switched completely to polymer notes: Australia, Brunei, Canada, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Romania and Vietnam. The UK will introduce polymer money in 2016.

Printers of polymer banknotes include the Canadian Bank Note Company and the UK company, De La Rue.

http://www.central-bank.org.tt/content/notes

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER

5th - 11th Pitch Lake Productions presents *She Called Me Mother* (UK Premiere)

11th - TTA Annual Dinner & Dance

3rd - Kaiso Lime @Carnival Village

NOVEMBER

7th - Kaiso Lime @Carnival Village

7th - The Commonwealth Fair 2015

Events will be added and updated on the High Commission's website:
www.tthighcommission.co.uk
Make sure to register as a national either by email or in the High Commission to keep abreast of our exciting events!

SEPTEMBER 2015

Central Bank of Trinidad & Tobago

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES INTEREST RATES

CURRENCY	BUYING	SELLING	CASH
Great British Pound	9.499	10.087	8.5429
United States Dollar	6.288	6.346	6.0000
European Euro	6.992	7.355	5.9961
Canadian Dollar	4.736	4.9695	4.7006

Interest Rates (%): 15 April 2014	
Discount Rate	6.25
Special Deposit Rate	0.00
Repo Rate	3.75 %
Prime Lending Rate (Average)	8.50
Overnight Interbank	1.76

Information based on Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago figures at time of print

http://www.central-bank.org.tt

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100.01 — 500.00	9.90	8.90
500.01 — 700.00	13.90	11.90
700.01 — 1,000.00	16.90	14.90

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FEATURE

THE RED HOUSE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS

Pictured: 1) The Red House in Port of Spain; **2)** Adornos recovered from the Red House site; **3)** Fully Extended - Human Burial Found at the Red House; **4)** Mr. Damien Ibrahim cleans a skull found at the Red House site. **Photos: Trinidad Express Newspaper**

During the period July 1, 2013 to January 31, 2015, the Office of the Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago hired Dr Basil Reid, Senior Lecturer in Archaeology in the Department of History at The UWI, St. Augustine Campus, and his archaeology crew to undertake a detailed archaeological study of the Red House site. This was as a result of some accidental discoveries made in the basement of the Red House building in March and April 2013 during inspection works by AMCOWELD, a local firm contracted by the Urban Development Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago (UDeCOTT).

Pre-colonial material culture (mostly pottery) was found commingled with European material culture in several archaeological strata. This clearly indicated that the Red House site was heavily disturbed because of repeated cycles of construction and backfilling since the construction of the original Red House building in 1844. However, in archaeological research, site disturbance does not automatically relegate a site to an insignificant status. There have been other important archaeological sites found throughout the Caribbean that were also disturbed, for example, Lavoutte in north Saint Lucia near St Castries, Grand Bay in Carriacou and St John in southwestern Trinidad.

Interestingly enough, although the Red House site was heavily disturbed, the team was able to identify a pre-colonial layer (or cultural horizon) throughout much of the site, at a depth ranging from 1.2 metres to 1.5 metres from topsoil. This 'pristine' layer can be described as either dark brown or dark gray sandy loam, consisting mainly of mollusks and pre-colonial pottery, occasioned by the presence of human burials, non-human faunal material, stone artefacts and charcoal.

The archaeological data suggest that centuries before the Red House building was originally constructed in 1844, a native community, peopled by the Saladoid and their offspring, inhabited the site from AD 125 to AD 1395. While dietary protein (collagen) from human skeletons provided the vast majority of radiocarbon dates for the site, some dates were obtained from non-human biological data such as

mollusks (shells), charcoal and faunal remains.

The pre-colonial pottery found at the site appears to be distinctly Saladoid, usually characterized by red, black, white-on-red (WOR) painting, broad-lined incisions, D-shaped handles, and an abundance of adornos. Several Saladoid adornos *(see picture 2)*, bearing human-like (anthropomorphic), animal-like (zoomorphic) and a combination of human-like and animal-like (anthropozoomorphic) features, were found at the site. Adornos were originally affixed to ceramic bowls, the latter of which were usually trotted out during ceremonial feastings and used as serving bowls.

The Saladoid people were the first fully horticultural native people to have colonized Trinidad and Tobago, arriving around 500 BC The timeline of Saladoid colonization in Trinidad should have ended in AD 600 and in the northern Lesser Antilles around AD 800/900. However, the presence of Saladoid-type pottery well into the 14th century - a period generally considered to be post-Saladoid - suggests that there was a local, resident native population at the Red House site for over a 1000 years. The original Saladoid setters simply reproduced themselves, establishing a relatively large village community in this area until the late 14th century.

The native village at the Red House site was located west of the original St Ann's River. In 1787, during the Spanish colonial period, the course of the original St Ann's River was diverted by Governor Don José Maria Chacón so that it ran to the east of the city, along the foot of the Laventille Hills. In pre-colonial times, the shoreline of the Gulf of Paria was much closer to the site than it is today. Land reclamation in Port of Spain during the Spanish and British colonial periods - which occurred long after the native village at the Red House site had been abandoned - has since created some distance between this native village site and the Gulf of Paria.

Based on preliminary stable isotopic analyses of human skeletal samples, it is clear that the diet of these pre-colonial natives was diverse. This is not surprising as they were able to hunt, fish and collect animals found in nearby forests, near the river, within mangroves and in shallow and deep waters of the Gulf of Paria. Excavations in the pre-colonial cultural horizon yielded remains of deer, collared peccary, armadillo, agouti, manicou, shark, catfish and stingrays. Mollusks (shells) have been found in abundance on site, with Mangrove oysters (Crassotrea rhizophorae) constituting the majority of shell finds. Apparently, the mollusks were collected from nearby mangroves, brought to the site where the soft tissues therein were consumed. Over time, shell discards accumulated to produce refuse heaps of shell called middens.

Similar to many pre-colonial communities in the Caribbean, the deceased were buried in a variety of places in the village such as within habitation areas and outside of the house structures. To date, over 60 complete and incomplete human skeletons including 1 skull in pot burial have been recovered from the site *(see picture 3)*. The burial positions of several skeletons varied, some were crouched, seated or fully extended. The presence of burial goods and the burial positions both suggest that the deceased at the Red House site were interred in a timely, purposive manner, based on rites of passage, reflective of South American/ Caribbean native cosmology.

Pictured: Mr. Albert Tom Yew (right), receives a token of appreciation from Mr. Stephen Smit, Chairman - Assuria Life (T&T) Ltd. **Photo: Trinidad Express Newspaper**

The skull in pot burial, which was found at a depth of 1.2 metres from topsoil, holds special cultural significance. Skull in pot burials were usually associated with ancestor veneration, usually accorded to important persons in these early native societies such as chiefs, tribal leaders or their offspring.

Over 13 skeletal remains were found buried in shell beds at various localities throughout the Red House basement. The shell beds primarily consisted of mangrove oysters (Crassostrea rhizophorae). Important symbolic meanings were associated with the practice of human remains' interment in shell beds. It would appear that the early indigenes would often bury their ancestors in these mollusk rich environments to ensure a continuing supply of food for the deceased in the afterlife.

One of the most intriguing aspects of the Red House Archaeology Project was the fact that a significant number of the native burials were located almost immediately below the foundations of the Government Building.

Although the foundations were laid in 1844, many of the workers must have seen these burials during the clearing and digging of the land in 1843. Yet their discovery did not make banner headlines in the Port of Spain Gazette. Could it be that the workers were instructed by the colonial authorities to keep silent? Or could it be that news of the native burials was already part of the grapevine, legend and folklore of Port of Spain at that time?

The Government Building, which was later renamed the Red House, was constructed on eight parcels of formerly private land on which nothing had previously been erected. This was prime real estate; yet people stayed away from the site until 1843/4 despite the growing pressure for land in Port of Spain, over three decades after the 1808 fire. The skeletal findings at the Red House site seem to present a possible explanation for this avoidance.

http://www.trinidadexpress.com/20150518/features/the-red-house-archaeological-excavations